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The Chow Line, 1922



*Every man can afford
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The AMERICAN LEGION Weekly

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The Cigarette

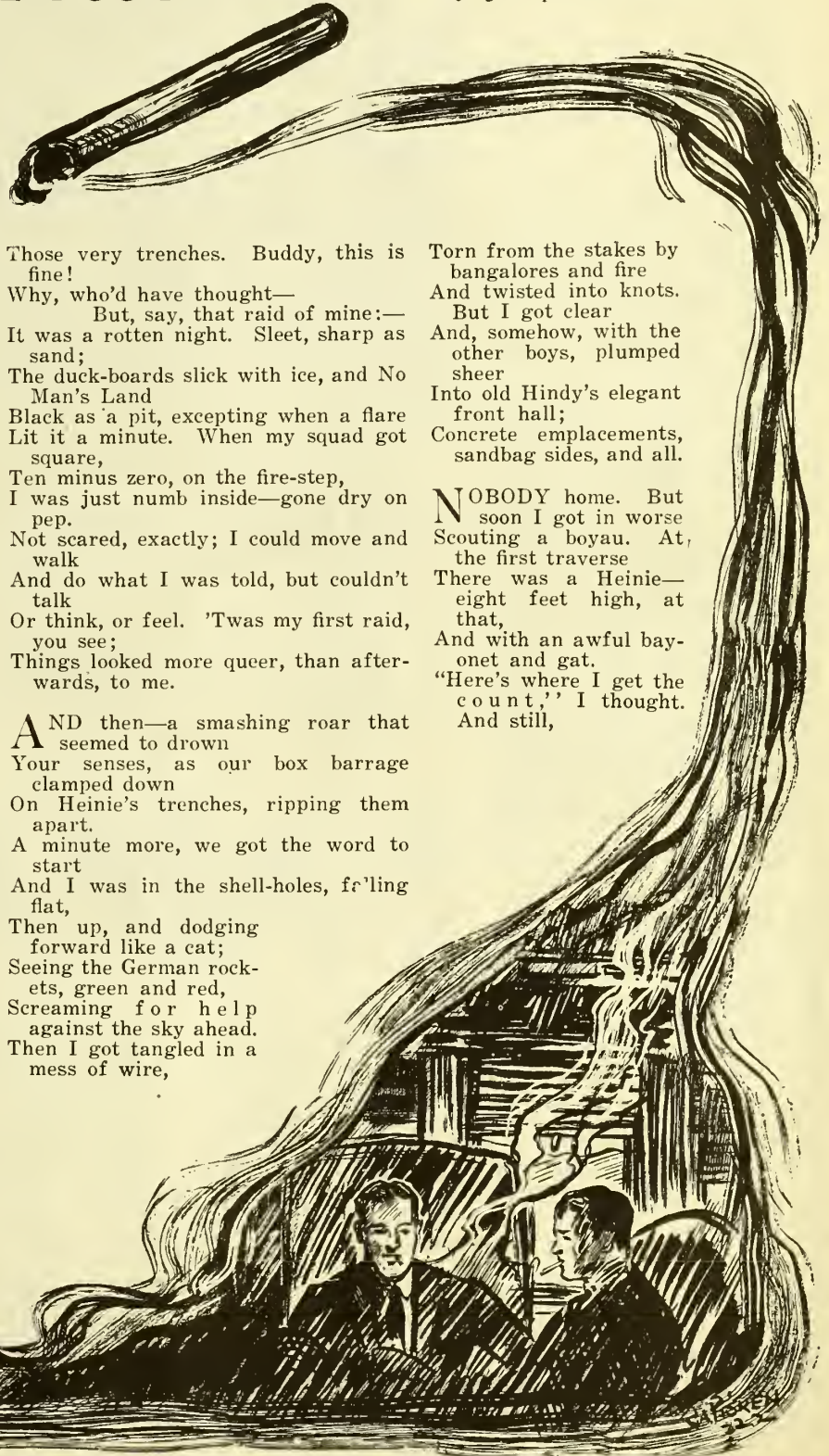
By Joseph Mills Hanson

HOT, don't you think, in here?
At that last town
The porter pulled the ven-
tilators down
And he's forgot to open them again.
It's getting worse and worse. These
railroad men
Care nothing for one's comfort. Mighty
crude
I call these trains. For instance, take
the food.
Bah! In the dining-car tonight, back
there,
I had some steak and mushrooms. I
said "rare,"
But was it? No! As done as chips,
clear through,
The mushrooms tough. But that's the
way they do.

Today, by being just a minute late,
I drew an upper. It's nothing I hate.
Awkward to reach and still more awk-
ward then;
No windows, narrow, hot as any pen,
And worse, it's Number Three, above
the truck;
I'll have a fine night's rest, condemn
the luck!
How's that? You've Lower Three? By
George, you win!
You'll get some rest down there when
you turn in.
But me! I'll feel it's just another go
Against a "forty hommes and eight
chevaux."

Ridden in them? Well, yes! To make
it small,
Some thousand kilometers, all in all.
You, too? You played the game with
fighting men?
Why, this is good! You've seen the
big show, then.
Here, have a Lucky. It's the dough-
boy's drag
And always good to taste. But, say,
the fag
That burned a spot of memory in my
brain
Was one I got one night up in Lorraine
Off of a long-gear'd chap who'd made
the grade
With me that midnight, in my first
trench raid.
I never saw his face all through the
scrap
There in the dark. I'd like to see his
map
Again, to thank him.
Wounded, cold and
wet,
It meant a lot, that
mashed-up cigarette!

What's that you say?
You "quiet-sectored,"
too,
East of Lunéville?
Maybe, then, you knew



Those very trenches. Buddy, this is
fine!

Why, who'd have thought—

But, say, that raid of mine:—
It was a rotten night. Sleet, sharp as
sand;

The duck-boards slick with ice, and No
Man's Land

Black as a pit, excepting when a flare
Lit it a minute. When my squad got
square,

Ten minus zero, on the fire-step,
I was just numb inside—gone dry on
pep.

Not scared, exactly; I could move and
walk

And do what I was told, but couldn't
talk

Or think, or feel. 'Twas my first raid,
you see;

Things looked more queer, than after-
wards, to me.

AND then—a smashing roar that
seemed to drown

Your senses, as our box barrage
clamped down

On Heinie's trenches, ripping them
apart.

A minute more, we got the word to
start

And I was in the shell-holes, fr'ling
flat,

Then up, and dodging
forward like a cat;

Seeing the German rock-
ets, green and red,

Screaming for help
against the sky ahead.

Then I got tangled in a
mess of wire,

Torn from the stakes by
bangalores and fire
And twisted into knots.

But I got clear

And, somehow, with the
other boys, plumped
sheer

Into old Hindy's elegant
front hall;

Concrete emplacements,
sandbag sides, and all.

NOBODY home. But
soon I got in worse
Scouting a boyau. At,
the first traverse
There was a Heinie—
eight feet high, at
that,
And with an awful bay-
onet and gat.
"Here's where I get the
count," I thought.
And still,

Some fragment of the dummy bayonet drill
Stayed with me. When he rushed me, thrust and cut,
I parried high and came back with the butt
And we were at it. But he got my hand
Fair with a lunge, and I'd have hit the sand
If some bird hadn't breezed around the bend
And tapped him on the dome.

It takes a friend

To turn a trick like that! So much I said,
And that the Heinie, hanging to his head
Against the parapet, was his. But "No,"
Says he: "That's your lamb, Mary. Make him go
To school. The bell's a-ringin'." Sure bet!
I heard the strombos blaring through the wet
And struck for home with Heinie just in front
Against my bayonet. A little runt I saw that he was, now; not near my height,
Fat and short-winded, shaking, too, with fright,
Moaning, "Ach, Gretchen, ach!" or some such stuff.
I pitied him, for I'd have felt as tough, Headed out east, if I'd been faced about
By this lad's meat-fork.

So, as we lit out

Through No Man's Land, I clapped him on the spine
And said, "Buck up, old timer! Can the whine.
When we have pickled Kaiser Bill, you bet
We'll send you home again!" He didn't get
My language, but he got my line and style
And handed me a sickly, grateful smile
And seemed to feel some better.

Then we hit

Our fire-trench and tumbled into it;



And as I heard the Boche barrage, too late,
Shrieking above our heads its hymn of hate,
My wits came back, knowing I had my skin.
It hadn't been so bad. And I'd brought in
A prisoner, besides. My captain came
And gripped my hand and called me "mighty game."
I sort of swelled inside, it seemed so good,
And felt as fine as any colonel could.

BUT how I longed to smoke—and not a snipe!

When comes this long-legg'd bird that saved my tripe

Back in the boyau—volunteer, maybe,
Or one of our supports—and handed me A Lucky! Boy, just listen while I state
I'm here to tell the world this one thing straight—

No Mount Olympus god could ever quaff

A cup of nectar sweet as that, by half!
But, sooner than I had a chance to say "Thanks," came a bugle blast not far away

And he just turned and beat it.

That's the end.

I've never seen that game, pinch-hitter friend

From then till now. Perhaps I will, though, yet;
But, anyway, I'll surely not forget.

WHAT'S that? You know that raid by heart? You crowned A Heinie in a boyau, who had downed

A Yank? You told that limb of Uncle Sam

To run to school and take along his lamb,

And then you gave a fag, when we'd pulled back,

To that same Yank? Why, buddy, you're the jack;

The long-legg'd pirate, all chassis and gear,

I've longed to see! Say, shake, old scout! And, here—

A Lucky—to those days of mud and steel;

Tough days, but, if we'd missed them, how we'd feel!

George! If we only had some old Three Star,

Or, worse, a canteen sour with pinard,
To drink your health! But what's the use? No chance!

We left all that behind in sunny France.

But we can talk, at least. To think that now,

Aboard this train de luxe, we've met somehow

Out of the icy trenches!

What? For me

You'll trade your lower for my Upper Three?

Not on your life! My grouch is gone for fair.

I've grown too soft since I was over there;

Forgot what won when we'd a job to do
And men were *men* who went and put it through!

No, bud, I'm sticking. Why, that berth of mine

Is soft as silk. Believe me, I'll sleep fine.

There never was a bunk so good to feel
In all the dugouts east of Lunéville!

A Message on the Service Census

THE Legion's Service Census is just that—a service rendered and a census taken only in order that greater service may follow. It is not a membership campaign. Yet it is inevitable that the eligible veteran, reminded by the Legion census-taker of the privilege of which he may avail himself, awakened to the fact that a strong, organized body of service men stands ready to put the full weight of its prestige behind him, should become interested in the Legion, want to know what it is and what it is trying to do, want to know if he ought to join.

If he does, here are a few reasons which should appeal to him:

The eligible non-member owes it to his less fortunate buddies who are still living the war in hospitals, blind, maimed or broken in health, to join the Legion—for if we do not take care of them, fight their battles for them, who will? Ask a man to put himself in those fellows' places—show him we have got to stick together if we are going to accomplish proper legislation to take care of them.

The Legion is the great organization of ex-service men accepted by the nation, which will look to the Legion as

the representative of the veterans of the World War. If a veteran doesn't agree with the Legion's present program, tell him to get in and help get it into proper ways. It is the big going organization—and no man can stop it by standing on the outside. Get in and work to keep it going straight.

Ten years from now the Legion is going to mean so much to all veterans that they can't afford to weaken it by staying out now, when it is starting its real constructive work and establishing its precedents for all time. Show them that the Legion has no invisible inside workings. It's just you and me and a million other fellows all plugging together for the good of our country.

Ask these men if they want to desert their buddies who are out of luck, and show them that the Legion stands behind them—Legion members or not—to see that they get a square deal from the country they fought for.

We must build the Legion so big and strong and fine that when we advocate certain policies or ask for certain legislation the American people will know that these things deserve their support.

HANFORD MACNIDER.



What the British Legion Is Doing

I HAVE been asked by the editor of The American Legion Weekly to give a brief sketch of the development of the British Legion, and to outline its present activities on behalf of the British veteran and his country. Our Legion is somewhat younger than yours, but the organizations from which it was evolved go back into the very heart of the war.

Before the war was halfway through, ex-service men in this country began to realize not only the need, but the desirability of uniting with the double object of ensuring justice to the man who had fought for his country, and of fostering and cherishing the comradeship of the war.

The first organization to enter the field was the National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers. At its inception, this society was dominated by the Trades Council movement, and this gave rise to the impression that the association was merely a wing of the Labor Party. The rank and file, however, soon saw the disadvantage of being controlled by anybody but themselves and broke away from Trade Council influence at their Annual Conference in 1918. The National Association, developing mainly in Lancashire and Yorkshire, never attained to the dimensions of the Comrades or the Federation, organizations dealt with in the succeeding paragraphs. Despite its comparative smallness, however, this association did excellent work in the busy centres of the North, and it must be noted to the credit of its members that early in the day they commenced moving in the direction of amalgamation.

The next organization to enter the arena, the National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers, had its inception at a local meeting at Manchester, in May, 1917, but it was not until July of the same year that its first Conference took place in London. The immediate incentive to the formation of the Federation was a so-called Review of Exceptions Act. Undoubtedly, the main idea at the back

Private Thomas Atkins, demobilized, has felt the same stick-together urge that brought The American Legion into being, but his own British Legion represents a powerful consolidation of several smaller veterans' organizations. The author of this article represented the British Legion at the last convention of The American Legion, which will be represented at the British Legion convention in June.



By Lt. Col. George R. Crosfield, D.S.O., T.D.

Vice Chairman, British Legion

of this Act was to get hold of the thousands of young fellows who were fit enough to fight for their country, but who, in the early hurry of the war, had escaped through a hasty and necessarily superficial medical examination.

The Act, however, as at first presented, provided that not only these men but all men discharged from the Army suffering from wounds, gas, or shell-shock should be re-examined with a view to being sent, if fit, back to the front. This Act, product of the serious situation of the war, naturally enough caused a wave of anger to pass through the ranks of the men who had been already overseas and had been discharged as disabled on their return

home. Mr. J. M. Hogge, a Radical M. P. of considerable ability, and possessed of a fluent tongue, threw himself into the battle of the discharged men, and, although not an ex-service man, became the guiding spirit of the Federation from its inception until June, 1918, when Mr. T. F. Lister, the able Chairman of the British Legion, took over the reins.

In August, 1917, a third society was launched, the Comrades of the Great War. It may be asked why was another organization started when there were two already in the field? It must be remembered, however, that at the period of which I am writing, these organizations had not come prominently before the public, and were, in fact, comparatively unknown. The immediate cause of the setting in motion of the Comrades organization was a letter to the *London Times* signed by Sir John Norton-Griffiths urging the desirability of such an organization embracing all ranks. The objects of the Comrades were summed up in the preamble to the Constitution as follows:

The organization shall be created to inaugurate and maintain in a strong, stimulating, united and democratic comradeship all those who have served in any capacity in the Sea, Land, and Air Forces during the Great War, so that neither their efforts nor their interests shall be forgotten or neglected.

The Comrades were extremely fortunate in obtaining as their chief Captain E. B. B. Towse, V. C., blinded in the South African Campaign and one of the great heroes of our country. On the outbreak of war, Captain Towse proceeded to France, and there for three years he never missed a day going round the base hospitals inspiring with faith and courage, by his own splendid example, those who were overcome by the horror of their own wounds. Learning of the important work there was to be done at home, Captain Towse returned to England and ever since then, right up to the day of amalgamation (which he advo-

cated most strongly), he has never ceased to labor in the cause of the ex-service man.

The Comrades, I say, were most fortunate in their Chief. They were not so fortunate in the members of the original Committee, for this Committee included no less than six Members of Parliament. It is true that all these Members of Parliament were ex-officers, and that they were representative of the Conservative, Liberal and Labor Parties, but the fact that they were Members of Parliament gave rise to the cry that the Comrades was a political organization.

A bitter and unfortunate feud grew up between the Federation and the Comrades, and, to a lesser extent, between the Comrades and the Association. The Federation had excluded ex-officers from membership unless they

had risen from the ranks. They had also proceeded to put up candidates at the General Election in November, 1918. The Comrades attacked the Federation as being undemocratic and as being a political party in the pocket of a Radical M. P. who was not an ex-service man. The Federation, aided by Bottomley's paper, *John Bull*, in their turn asserted that the Comrades were not out genuinely to assist the ex-service men, that they were a camouflaged body, and that the M. P.'s on the Executive had given proof of this by voting for the Review of Exceptions Act.

The M. P.'s replied that they voted for the Review of Exceptions Act excluding the gas and shell-shock cases, because it was necessary to win the war. The men who had been trained and had seen service were more valuable than those who had not, and the medical ex-

amination had inevitably been rushed through in the case of the others. And so the fight went on, absorbing energy which should have been devoted to the interests of ex-service men. I do not wish to convey the impression that splendid work was not being done. Pension cases were being taken up and pushed through by the thousand by means of the various organizations. Clubs were being inaugurated throughout the length and breadth of the land; pension anomalies were being brought forward and righted in the House of Commons, and, above all, the maximum pension of twenty-seven shillings and sixpence, which was entirely inadequate, was raised to forty shillings, this being largely due to the influence of organized ex-service men. More than one attempt was made to combine forces, but all

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Why Tear the Tattered Ensign Down?

By Gangplank

HERE is no question that the popularity of the Navy with the American people is greater today than it has ever been. There were more than 500,000 men in the Navy during the World War and the Navy transported to Europe two million American troops and returned them again to the United States. All of these service men, both in the Army and Navy, are loyal supporters and rooters for the naval service. Most of them have passed into civilian life and have, like true disciples, gone among the people preaching the doctrine of adequate defense and their respect and admiration for the Navy. Every Congressman and every Senator may expect letters of protest against any act reducing our Navy from first place. There is a very strong demand throughout the country for an adequate navy.

The Conference on the Limitation of Armaments was received with favor throughout the country and the result of the work of that conference in establishing a 5:5:3 ratio for the capital ships of the United States, Great Britain and Japan was satisfactory to the people of the country. This was made evident in editorials and speeches throughout the land and it was equally evident that any assignment of power which removed the United States from first place would be unsatisfactory.

At the time of the conference, Japan was spending fifty percent of her total revenue on her navy while the United States was spending only one-tenth of her revenue on the Navy. At present the Senate has practically unanimously approved the naval treaty which establishes the United States in first place while in the House of Representatives an element is at work attempting to remove the United States from first place and put her even below the strength assigned to Japan. This is being done by refusing to appropriate money to pay the personnel necessary to man the ships left us by the treaty.

It is men that fight, not ships. We are left in first place with ships but

if Congress does not provide men to man these ships we must yield first place and drop to the position of a second class navy. The experience of the United States Navy indicates that men do not usually attain their maximum efficiency until the last year of their enlistment. Our enlistments are for four years, the British for twelve years and the Japanese for six years. Assuming that the men in the British and Japanese navies also attain their maximum efficiency after three years, the ratio of efficiency of personnel in the three navies would be as 1:9:3.

We do not, of course, believe that there is any such disparity in efficiency of personnel in the three navies because we maintain that the personnel of the United States Navy is of a superior type. This data shows the handicap under which the United States Navy labors in having short periods of enlistment. Naval experts do not recommend, however, that the four year enlistment be increased because we do not believe that the traditions of this country warrant young men in committing themselves to long periods of service.

Keeping in mind clearly that it is men and not ships that fight, it is evident that the United States has a limited source of supply of seafaring men in comparison with Great Britain and Japan. Both Great Britain and Japan have merchant marines manned almost completely by their own nationals, whereas a large part of the seafaring population in American ships is foreign-born. At the same time both Great Britain and Japan maintain large naval reserves compared to which the naval reserve of the United States is almost insignificant.

During the war, the United States Navy was augmented by the addition of about 400,000 reserves who adapted themselves with remarkable rapidity to the work assigned them and who reflected great glory and credit on the country. Officers of the Regular Navy commended their services highly and

the country will never cease to appreciate the wonderful service which they performed in spite of the handicaps under which they were working. The splendid reserve which was built up during the war is now scattered and cannot be mobilized for emergency. It required several months after war was declared to outfit and train these men to become proficient in their duties and we cannot expect to have any time available in the event of another war. We must be ready.

After we have scrapped all the old battleships and the new battleships not completed and reduced our Navy to the "Hughes program" and passed beyond that program and scrapped many of the older cruisers, destroyers, etc., of doubtful military value, we will not be able, with our present allowed personnel of 106,000 men, to man more than eighty percent of the remaining vessels. We shall have many modern war vessels on which many millions have been spent in construction tied up in navy yards for lack of personnel.

The present Navy budget can and should be cut down by rigid economy within the Navy Department, by concentrating the fleets instead of dispersing them for the purpose of giving additional sea commands to high ranking officers, and by scrapping vessels of small military value such as old cruisers typified by the *Olympia*, *Rochester*, and similar vessels.

Naval officers have estimated that it will require 130,000 men to keep the Navy in first place. Mr. Denby, Secretary of the Navy, has stated to Congress that the minimum number of men for the next fiscal year should be 96,000. Mr. Butler, Chairman of the House Naval Committee, has reported a bill which provides for 86,000 men while the Appropriations Committee, on the advice of Congressman Kelly, is limiting the naval appropriations to a sum which will provide pay for only 65,000 men. It is evident that if Congressman Kelly, and his small following,

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Ex-Service Boxers Near the Top

By William Henry Nugent

THE gong ending the four-year fight in Europe on November 11, 1918, found only two world's champion boxers wearing a uniform in the armed service of the United States — Sergeant Michael O'Dowd, A. E. F., middleweight, and Seaman Pete Herman, U. S. N., bantamweight.

Since the Armistice five champions have been tumbled down and new men have stepped into their places as leaders of the eight senior weight divisions, fly, bantam, feather, light, welter, middle, light heavy and heavyweight. Both O'Dowd and Herman have lost their titles. Mike lost his to Johnny Wilson (Panica) in a twelve-round bout and Pete, after losing and regaining his belt in two battles with Joe Lynch of the 77th Division, re-lost it to Johnny Buff (christened John Lesky), former bantamweight champion of the Atlantic Fleet, who fought his first professional battle in 1918 at the age of thirty.

So to-day little 112-pound, Polish-American Johnny Buff, thirty-three years old, is the only United States veteran who holds a world's title in the ring, a net loss of one since 1918. Still, the outlook doesn't call for an amendment to the Constitution for the prospects of former service men getting to the top of the heap in their class are beaucoup if the present title holders will only fight our former soldiers, sailors and Marines.

Remember that champions today do not rush impetuously into a match but first consider the professional ability of their opponent, who is likely to referee and, quite often, they ask the size of the purse. Still they can't avoid as rivals the best boxers from the ranks of the war veterans, and when they do meet our fast-improving ex-service boxers then some present-day champions will bid good-by to their titles.

Probably before the end of the year, six of

the eight major championships—only Leonard, lightweight, and Dempsey, heavyweight, appear secure—will belong to Legionnaires. To begin with Buff should annex the flyweight title, in addition to his bantam belt, from Jimmy Wilde of Pontypridd, Wales, for Johnny outpointed Herman, who early last year was all set in the seventeenth round to knock the little Britisher into the lap of the Prince of Wales at the ringside when the referee stopped the one-sided contest. In that tussle Wilde didn't lose the flyweight title because he went out of his class. Even should Buff be defeated this year it will almost certainly be by an ex-service man, for Joe Lynch and Midget Smith are right on his heels.

In the featherweight class, Johnny Kilbane, champion, celebrates his tenth anniversary as title holder, but few expect the silver-haired veteran to last until Christmas, for Andy Chaney, A. E. F., Interallied champion, or half a dozen other good feathers have a chance to beat him, provided, of course, that Kilbane will go up against a tough contender instead of picking out some fifth rater for the slaughter.

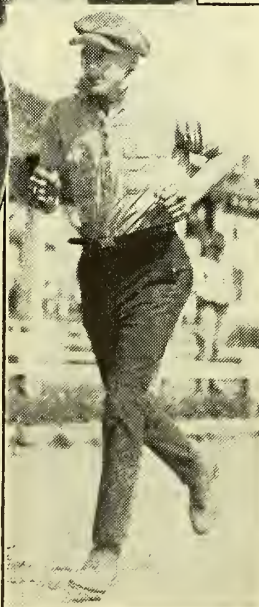
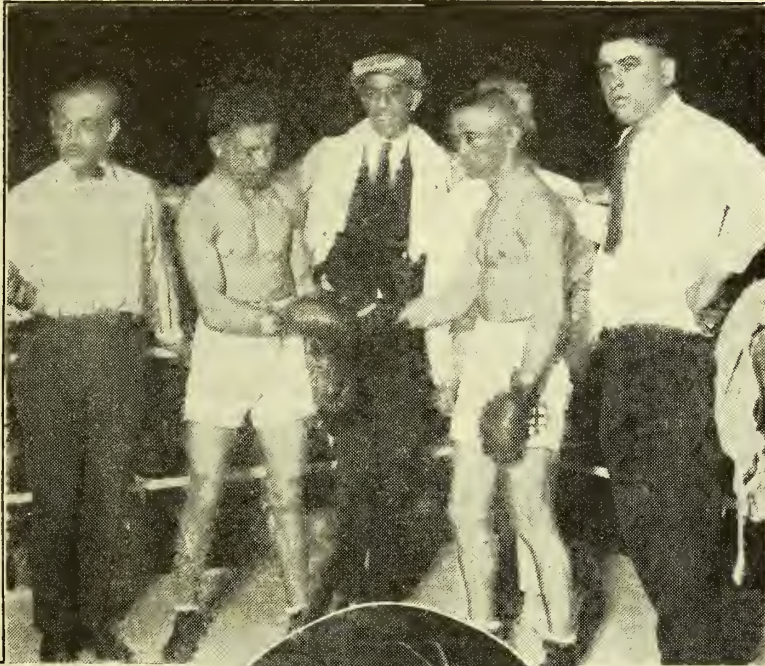
Benny Leonard looks to be the class of the lightweights, but Jack Britton, the thirty-six-year-old welter leader, can't sit pretty much longer with strong youths like Dave Shade wanting his place. Johnny Wilson, the middleweight champion of the world (excluding Ohio, which has named Bryan Downey after a questionable bout with Wilson), can hold his empty honors for at least six more months for the very good reason that twenty-two States have barred him from the ring for that length of time for refusing to fight Harry Greb, a wartime bluejacket, after he had signed to box him.

If Greb, or the more or less obscure Howard Trembly, one-time sailor on the battleship *Pennsylvania* and now of Boston, Massachusetts, who flattened Greb in a service bout in London, ever face Wilson in the ring the title Mike O'Dowd lost will pass back to a Legionnaire.

In the light heavyweight class, Georges Carpentier will be trifling with no set-ups if he climbs through the ropes to meet one of our good cruiser weights, Tom Gibbons, Harry Greb or Gene Tunney. Georges agreed to box Gibbons, but from Paris the other day he said he favored Tunney and Greb fighting it out for the right to meet him.

Dempsey, of whom you have doubtless heard, bullies the heavyweights with prospects of bouts with Harry Wills, negro champion, and a return match. (Con. on page 18)

Photo by Underwood



Above—Johnny Buff (right) mitting Pete Herman just before he took the world's bantamweight crown from him. In circle—Gene Tunney, the pride of the leather-necks. Left—Harry Greb, the gob who has fought 220 battles. Right—Bob Martin, A. E. F. heavyweight champ, training at the double

Facts the Service Census Is Proving

By Frank E. Samuel
Adjutant, Department of Kansas

IN order to reach some 80,000 former service men and women distributed unequally over 105 counties of the State of Kansas as our department's share in the Service and Adjusted Compensation Campaign, it was found necessary to build up a thorough and complete plan of organization. At a meeting of the department executive committee called by the department commander, it was determined that the two committeemen from each of the eight Congressional districts should be wholly responsible for the census within their respective areas. These 16 committeemen appointed 105 county chairmen, each of whom in turn either selected a county executive committee of 10 to 15 members or appointed a leader from each post who was to be held accountable for a designated area under the jurisdiction of that post.

The territory surrounding each post was so divided as to make it possible to cover every inch of ground without any overlapping. It was then left to the judgment of the post leader, in most cases, as to how he should line up his teams of canvassers, dividing the larger cities into precincts, wards or sections and the more sparsely settled districts into townships under further delegated leadership. One of the largest cities was divided into 40 sections with The American Legion Auxiliary completely in charge.

Almost a month was required to work out the above scheme of organization, distribute supplies from department headquarters to all parts of the State and actually place the machinery in full operation. This permitted the launching of the intensive campaign on March 20th. As this is being written the work is practically finished, with only a few ragged ends to be brought together.

Canvassers' manuals were distributed by department headquarters at the rate of ten to each post. These took up in brief 17 different points in anticipation of the many questions which might be asked of the canvassers in the field. Many of the census-takers were coached through delegates who had recently attended district conventions called for that purpose. Most of the post leaders called together all the workers at stated intervals for conference and instructions. Only a small part of the coaching was actually done by correspondence. Perhaps the most valuable instructions for the canvassers were carried in the columns of The American Legion Weekly. All workers were directed to return the questionnaires to post headquarters where all information of interest will be extracted. Thereafter the filled-in blanks will be forwarded through the census plan of organization to department headquarters, where they will receive attention preparatory to filing.

The most important co-operation in the whole program has been that extended by The American Legion Auxiliary. In some instances great areas were turned over to them exclusively. From present indications, it has been almost a fifty-fifty proposition between the Legion and the Auxiliary in Kansas.

In a few cities unemployed ex-service men have been engaged on a commission basis to give full time to the work. In some instances, the interest of county superintendents of instruction was solicited, making it possible to distribute a questionnaire to every ex-service man and woman in the rural communities. Posters were placed on telegraph poles urging men in isolated districts to call for the blanks at stated places and emphasizing the importance of such records in connection with payment of national and state compensation. Newspapers reproduced the blank forms, making it possible to place blanks in the hands of those not otherwise reached.

It was found possible to rely upon various executive officers for distribution and collection of questionnaires in hospitals, penal institutions and permanent army forts. Some time was saved in mailing blanks direct to members of the Legion as the personal contact in these cases was not considered so necessary.

As was to be expected, some difficulties were encountered, but they were comparatively insignificant. The lines of the questionnaire dependent upon

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What Kansas Is Learning from the Census

The Legion still has "a tremendous obligation" in the care of the disabled veteran and his family.

Hundreds of veterans in the State, probably hundreds of thousands throughout the country, are wholly ignorant of their rights as veterans and the obligations owed them by their Government.

Unemployment dates back in many cases not only to the beginning of the period of depression, but to the service man's demobilization.

Veterans are "almost unanimous" in their belief in the justice of adjusted compensation.

Only "a small minority" of veterans believe the Legion should enter politics.

The census has made possible the collection of archives of high historical value "which might otherwise never have been assembled."

As a membership getter, the census is a world beater.

Five-Dollar Service Census Prize Letters

The accompanying letters were submitted in answer to the question, "What is the most interesting experience that you have encountered in getting the Legion Service Census blanks filled?" This magazine will pay five dollars for every letter it is able to print in reply to this question.

To be eligible for publication every letter must fulfill these qualifications:

1. It must be written by a Legion or Auxiliary member in good standing who is or has been actually engaged in the house-to-house task of taking the Service Census.
2. It must record one incident only, and an incident that actually occurred during the taking of the census.
3. It must be no more than three hundred words long—the shorter the better.
4. It must bear the attest of the writer's post commander or post adjutant.

Address Service Census Editor, The American Legion Weekly, 627 West 43d Street, New York City.

A Stranger in Town

I RECEIVED my lot of service census blanks on a Saturday. On Sunday I was strolling down through the town and stopped to join a little crowd gathered around a young man with one arm off who wore the typical old 'bo garb. He was talking rather loudly and saying what he thought of The American Legion. I got into conversation with him, found he could talk a little French and had served overseas. I asked him if our post could help him—he said no. I asked him to let me take his case up, but he wouldn't. So I left him.

Several hours later I saw him passing my home. He was walking to the next town. I went out and stopped him, had him come in and have dinner with the family, and asked him to answer the questions on the census blank. He did.

Finally he asked me to take his case up. I started to work on it. I gave him a letter of introduction to the post in the next town. Then I stopped a friend who was passing in his car and got the buddy a ride there.

Twelve days later I got this letter from him: "Life seems brighter. They are rushing my case. I am for you and The American Legion always. Will write to you soon."—J. B., Morini Kleinman Post, Toquerville, Utah. Attested by W. H. Anderson, Post Adjutant.

His Two-Day War

THE territory I covered in the service census included many colored veterans. There is a strike here at present, so that at one home I visited I found a Negro buddy doing the washing.

"Ben," I asked, "were you in the Army?"

"Yassuh," he replied. "Dat man's Ahmy mos' killed me—ain't felt right sence."

"When did you enlist?" I asked.

He had forgotten, so he started looking for his discharge. First he unloaded a trunkful of letters, then the

(Continued on page 15)

Keeping Step with the Legion

and The American Legion Auxiliary

XYZ Paging AL

FIVE years ago if you had asked a young man what radio was he would have replied, "It's the stuff that makes your watch hands shine at night." Nowadays radio means a microphone—one that has bitten a hundred million folks and is still biting. The hundred million includes most of the Legion.

Leroy S. Mead Post of Closter, New Jersey, had a radio concert at a regular post meeting last month. A member of the post is in the business, so they were sure of expert handling for the apparatus. The Auxiliary was invited, too. "This concert was noted on the regular meeting notices," says Post Adjutant Fred J. Byrd, "and you ought to have seen the button members come out. Pass the word along—it works."

Last year, some time before the radio craze reached its height (if it has), Adams Post of Decatur, Indiana, had already organized an American Legion Radio Club. Its objects are "the promotion of greater interest in wireless telegraphy and wireless telephony, the establishment of a news service, and the promotion of public and private entertainment for profit, the benefit thereof to be applied to Adams Post." Membership in the club is limited to members of the post in good standing.

Sewickley Valley Post of Sewickley, Pennsylvania, broadcasted notices of a forthcoming dance once a week for three weeks. Of course a lot of people heard about the dance who couldn't have gone to it without an overnight train ride, but that did no harm—they heard about the Legion. And as to dances, there is the ex-gob in Lincoln, Nebraska, who, when his post wanted music for a concert, rigged up a radiophone and engaged a band (which knew nothing about it) a thousand miles away.

The National Commander has already tried out radio and has been heard as far as Chatfield, Minnesota, is from Pittsburg. Harold Bailey Post of Chatfield happened to be meeting that night and, thanks to Post Adjutant Boyd Shimer's owning an apparatus, was able to hear the National Commander without leaving its own post fireside.

Albert S. Callan, first vice-commander, New York department, recently spoke on veteran hospitalization at the General Electric broadcasting station in Schenectady, New York. A bulletin announcing his speech was sent out by National Headquarters to the Legion in Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and all States east of this line, "also the Department of Cuba." The commander of Schenectady Post, W. W. Trench, spoke from the same station on Washington's Birthday—incidentally, sixteen of his fellow members made speeches in Schenectady's schools that day.

The folks who best appreciate the advantages of radio are those in the remote regions where sympathy or-

chestras and opera stars seldom penetrate. We think G. R. B. of Beaverhead (Montana) Post, up in the Rockies, has a right to broadcast this message showing what he thinks the Legion ought to do in the way of radio development:

While there is a clamor for Legion orators who will be able to deliver the

—and members would be listening to the best the country affords. Legionnaires would turn out to the meetings and bring interested AWOL's with them.

The system suggests endless possibilities and I believe it is entirely practical. Elaborate and entertaining programs that individual posts could not hope to stage could be broadcasted from national, sectional or state headquarters, while Legion members, congregated in their clubhouses scattered over a vast area, would compose the audience.

My idea is to have every post equipped with a radiophone receiving set and every state, sectional (by this I mean groups of States, such as the Northwestern—Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana) or the national headquarters, with a transmitting or broadcasting apparatus. Time schedules could easily be figured out.

Here in a little valley at the top of the Rockies we pick up news announcements, lectures and concerts broadcasted from San Francisco with ease, and we are informed that audiences as far away as Washington, D. C., are listening to the same concerts.

Legion Calendar

Service Census

The Indiana department calls it "the greatest drive since the Liberty Loan campaigns." Make it count.

Mothers' Day

May 14th will be the Auxiliary's Day. Plans include community church services, hospital sings, letter-writing for disabled buddies, and exercises at the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington in honor of his Unknown Mother. Everybody out.

Memorial Day

A minimum contribution of five cents per member for each department and of five dollars for each post—this is what is needed for the annual decoration of graves overseas. Checks should be forwarded through department headquarters, made payable to the National Treasurer, American Legion, and must be sent so as to reach Indianapolis not later than May 15th.

Unemployment

Complete economic rehabilitation for every veteran is the Legion's objective.

Boys' Week

An opportunity for the Legion to co-operate with Rotary Clubs throughout the country in observing this period from Sunday, April 30th, through Saturday, May 6th.

Boys' Week

THE International Association of Rotary Clubs has taken over the week beginning April 30th as Boys' Week. The Rotary Clubs know that no one organization can have a monopoly of the boys of the United States, so they have asked The American Legion to help make the week a success.

They have set aside Sunday, April 30th, as Boys' Day in the churches; Monday, May 1st, as Boys' Parade Day; Tuesday, May 2d, as Boys' Day in School; Wednesday, May 3d, as Boys' Day in Industries; Thursday, May 4th, as Boys' Day for Health and Safety; Friday, May 5th, as Boys' Day for Thrift and Citizenship; Saturday, May 6th, as Boys' Day with Dad and in the Home.

Most Legionnaires are young enough so that the memory of their own boyhood is fresh and clear; moreover, the boys of America look up to the Legionnaires everywhere and it is up to the Legionnaires to merit this esteem.

Legion posts in a number of cities are planning co-operation with the Rotary Club in celebrating Boys' Week. It is suggested that the Legion can especially be helpful in arranging parades and in giving suggestions for Boys' Day in Industries and Boys' Day for Health and Safety.

Via the Panhandle

"JOIN the Army and see the world," has been replaced in the minds of a certain ex-service (or fake ex-service) element by the watchword, "Bum your way on the Legion and see the world." National Headquarters has just issued a bulletin praising "the

(Continued on page 16)

Legion's message with enough force to impel hundreds of thousands of AWOL's into the organization, let me suggest a system which I believe would prove doubly efficacious.

Among the hundreds of speakers listed by the National Speakers' Bureau there will be scores of real orators, men who will reflect the Legion's virility in their speeches, who will put their message across with a punch. But they will not be available to individual posts throughout the country—where they are most needed and should be heard—unless it is by means of radiophone.

If the Legion were to inaugurate a national, sectional and state radiophone broadcasting service, think what it would mean to individual posts! A post could install an excellent receiving set complete at a cost not to exceed \$200—about the expense of three or four mediocre speakers

EDITORIAL



With Us Again

IN the face of ruddy warnings uttered a year ago by organizations as irresponsible as the unruly elements against whom they were crusading, this magazine dared to suggest that May 1, 1921, the day annually set apart for radical demonstrations wherever there are enough radicals to demonstrate, would prove here in America to be nothing more lively than the day between April 30th and May 2d.

Our prophecy was correct, and we dare to make it again this year—not that it takes a great amount of courage. But warnings are again being issued, happily in lesser degree, a good many of them by groups which have found the Bolshevik bogey profitable and would really hate to see it laid, that May 1, 1922, will be the occasion for uprisings everywhere against law, order and good government. Our own Department of Justice, which would be most concerned if such uprisings came off on schedule, has again urged sanity and a general disregard of the fake terrorism which the reactionary persons and organizations referred to are again trying to inspire.

May 1st this year comes on a Monday. Let's set the alarm clock for the usual hour and not depend on a soviet bomb to get us out of bed. Depending on the bomb is likely to make us late for work.

How the "Bonus" Wrecked Canada

IN 1919 Canada paid adjusted compensation to her soldiers. The married veteran who served three years received six hundred dollars in cash, besides the privilege of cheap insurance and a loan of up to seven thousand dollars on land—compensation much more generous than would be accorded by this country under the provisions of the Legion's bill now pending in Congress, compensation especially liberal in view of the proportion of ex-service men in Canada to those in the United States. Certain financiers say a "bonus" would wreck this country. Here is how it wrecked Canada:

Between the first of 1919, the compensation-paying year, and the middle of 1920, the mean price of one typical Canadian rail, four public utility and twenty industrial stocks advanced from 85 to 110.

In the same period, a plotted chart prepared by an American statistician of high repute shows, the trend of general business in Canada went from 120 to 140.

In 1919 in both the United States and Canada the price level of all commodities was 118 percent above the 1913 level. It rose in both countries in the following twelve months but whereas, in the United States in 1920 prices were 162 percent higher than in 1913, in Canada they were only 157 per cent higher. Canada enabled 27,000 service men to get farms which in 1920 produced crops worth \$13,935,178 and this may have something to do with the difference in Canada's favor in the comparative cost of commodities.

In the year that Canada paid compensation, Canadian exchange depreciated in the United States just fifty percent less than that of the other countries engaged in the war. Today the Canadian dollar is within two and one half cents of par, far ahead of the currency of other countries.

Today, we are told by market letters of various financial concerns, Canadian business is prospering. Canadian stocks and bonds are selling in the United States by the millions, recommended as safe, conservative investments. The Province of Ontario recently marketed bonds in this country, for example, with an interest rate of a fraction over five percent, the same return that the best securities in this country pay today.

Yes, the "bonus" will ruin this country. It ruined Canada. Only somehow they don't seem to realize it. Perhaps someone ought to tell them.

The Danger to the Navy

A RENOWNED British Admiral, Lord Fisher, once said: "Men fight, not ships."

This country agreed at the Washington Conference for the Limitation of Armaments that our Navy should have a ship strength equal to Great Britain's and greater than Japan's in the ratio of five to three. The American people took it for granted that our Government would give its Navy enough men to maintain the ratio for the three countries of 5-5-3.

A powerful faction in Congress is now fighting to reduce the enlisted personnel in the Navy from 106,000 to 65,000 men. This despite the fact that Japan has announced its intention to man its reduced Navy with 8,588 officers and 68,252 men, while Great Britain purposes to have 98,500 officers and men of both Navy and Marines and a total of 121,400 officers and men, counting colonial navies and the Naval Air Service.

Giving the Navy only 65,000 enlisted men would be an outrageous breaking of faith with ourselves. It would be a breach of public confidence. It would be a betrayal of the hopes the American people gained from the Washington Conference.

Congress must give the American Navy all the men it needs to maintain the five-five-three ratio.

"Men fight, not ships."

The Floaters

THE president of a great automobile manufacturing company in the Middle West recently was asked if he would help The American Legion find jobs for unemployed veterans. "I will give work to every unemployed boy you bring here who is a resident of this city," he said, "but I won't place any outsiders."

That manufacturer is not a narrow provincial. He is as good a citizen of the United States as he is of his own State, but his first duty is to manufacture good automobiles and he knows that the best workmen are the reliable fellows who stay at home as much as they can. Without being prejudiced against the thousands of worthy men who have been compelled to leave home, he is prejudiced, and with justice, against the floaters who go away from home from choice rather than from necessity, and, finding that it is hard to distinguish between the two classes, he makes no attempt to draw a line except that between residents and non-residents.

Every big town gives refuge to some floaters. Veterans of the World War furnish a natural proportion of these men, although not by any means more than a natural proportion. National Headquarters of The American Legion has issued a warning against the apparent widespread opinion that a good job lies just around the corner—when it means not a corner of the year but a corner of the country.

The Legion's slogan is: "Let every community take care of its own." The Legion's advice to wanderers is that they should go where they are best known and where the desire is to help the local fellows first. With the Legion's aid this program is being carried out. The local fellows are being helped, but the problem of the floater cannot be settled so long as employers prefer men they know to men they do not know, or so long as it is human nature to be suspicious of the men who won't "stay put."

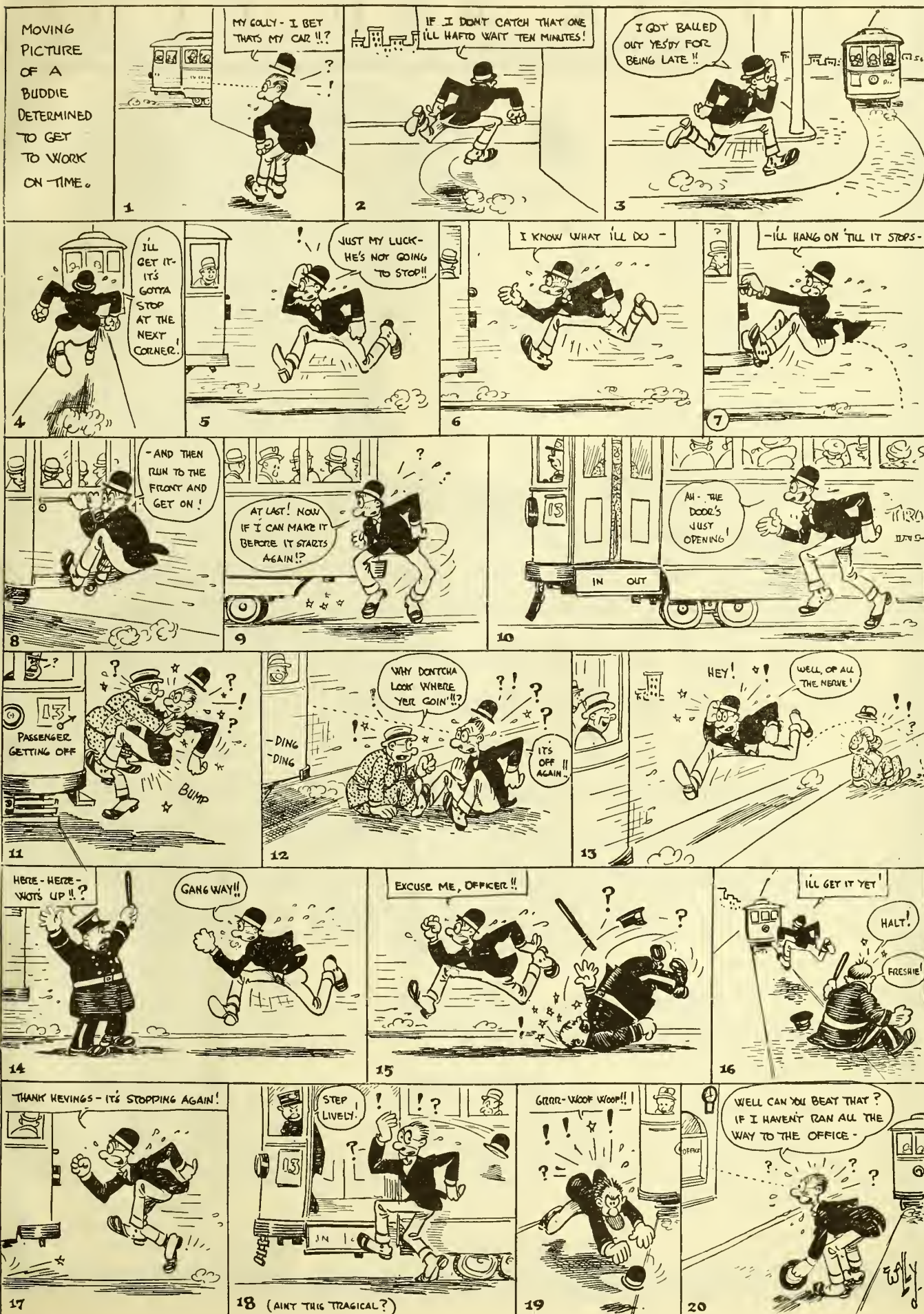
The Legion's Honor

NATIONAL COMMANDER HANFORD MacNIDER recently was offered the cross of the Legion of Honor. He refused it as a personal decoration, but said he would accept it as a tribute to The American Legion.

There is just one lesson to be drawn from this: In the opinion of Hanford MacNider, The American Legion is bigger than any individual. Its work is the work which was begun in 1917 and which is not yet over; its purposes are the purposes of the majority of veterans of the World War. Its aims and policies may be carried out by individuals, but the work of individuals is the work of a multitude. While the obvious credit may go to a few, the inspiration comes from millions.

It's Perseverance That Wins

By Wallgren



BURSTS AND DUDS

Payment is made for original material suitable for this department. Unavailable manuscript will be returned only when accompanied by stamped, self-addressed envelope

The S. O. L.

BY A MEMBER

To "The soldiers that never saw service,"
Let that be your toast if you please;
To the S. O. L. boys who missed all the joys
Of strafing the Hun overseas!
Attention I'll beg just one moment
To us on this side of the foam,
As well as the kids in the Bessemer lids
Who made the Huns holler for home.

We did our eight hours of drilling—
I guess you all learned what that means—
To do Squads East and West, and stick out
your chest
And live on sowbelly and beans.
We did our fatigue and guard duty
And, though we have never seen blood,
Nor used a trench knife to take a Hun's
life
We've oft used them peeling a spud!

We took the same chance as the others,
From those whom we'll never more see
To those luckier brethren who won their
gold chevron
In the bitter bataille de Paree;
We took the same chance—the luck differed
For us, who missed seeing the row,
I'll only ask praises for working like Hades
With nothing to show for it now.

What? Nothing to show for it now, eh?
I'd forgotten my Legionnaire's pin
That stands for my slaving, and waiting,
and raving
For orders that never came in.
We were S. O. L.—never got over—
Yet the duty we did was well done;
So that's why we're totin' the same Legion
button
That grades all ex-buddies as one.

Household Diplomacy

Jimmy: "Yer ma won't let yer do that."
Freddy: "She will if I can get pa ter say
I can't."

Alert!

The division was having maneuvers for
the benefit of visitors' day and everything
was being let loose at once. A pretty girl
was eagerly watching the performance
when a rifle volley crashed out. With a sur-
prised scream she fell back into the arms
of a young corporal who was standing just
behind her.

"Oh, I beg your pardon," she gasped,
blushing. "I was frightened by the rifles."
"Quite all right," replied the corporal.
Then he added hopefully. "Let's go over
and watch the heavy artillery for awhile."

A Real Benefit

"How I envy you your group of children,"
remarked the bachelor to his long-married
friend.

"Children certainly do brighten the
home," replied the other, gratified.

"What? Oh, yes, yes, of course. But
what I was thinking of—look at the tax
exemption you can claim on them."

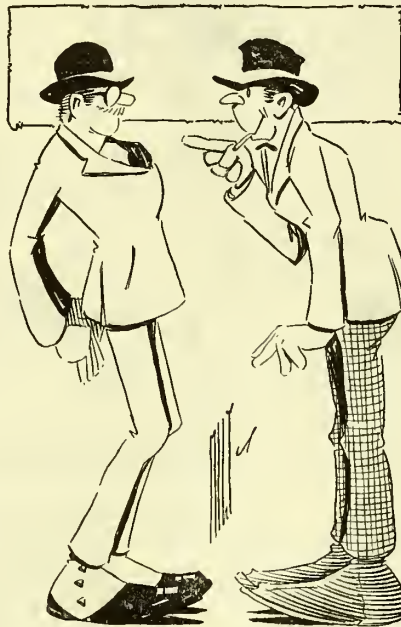
You Know How It Is

"Is that bluish tinge over there on the
horizon a mountain range?" asked a
stranger in a Texas town.

"Naw," replied the old native disgustedly.
"There ain't even a hill within six hundred
miles of here. The new golf course lays
about where you're pointin', though."

Identified

No matter what he was in, did you ever
hear him remark that his outfit—
Had a boob for a second lieutenant?
Had the meanest C. O. in the service?



"Muggsley fell out of a thirty-story build-
ing today."

"Heavens! Kill him instantly?"

"Not even a scratch. You see he fell
out of the street door onto the sidewalk."

Never had a square meal?
Did all the fatigue duty in the unit?
Was kept away from Paris for spite?
Never saw a "Y" man in the front lines?
Was issued all the odd-size clothing?
Vowed to murder the top kick when dis-
charged?

Had a commanding general who special-
ized in rainy day hikes?
Won the war?

Suggestions of a Doughboy

*Being the
Suggestions of a Doughboy on the Manner
of Conducting the Next War, Together
with Certain Reflections on the Conduct of
the Last One.*

21. That at least ninety percent of all
courts-martial be abolished, thereby releas-
ing numerous officers and M.P.'s for more
popular service, by the simple expedient of
making leaves to Paris permanent, instead
of limiting them to three days.

(To be continued)

On the Contrary

"Hear you were in a free fight last
night."

"I was in a fight all right, but it cost me
ten bucks in court today."

But He Shells Out

Willie had been reading The American
Legion Weekly.

"Pop," he asked, "what are Bursts and
Duds?"

"Duds, Willie," explained pop, "are what
your mother orders from the department
store. The bursts occur when I get the
bills."

Starting Early

"Who was the lucky chap at the wedding
this morning?"

"The best man. I saw him kiss the
bride three times when the groom wasn't
looking."

Dear Li'l Joe

Mae: "He's an awfully loving man."

Gertie: "How do you know?"

Mae: "Oh, I overheard him saying some
of the sweetest things to some cunning little
spotted blocks he was playing with."

The Bright Side

"John, the cook broke another batch of
dishes today."

"Well, my dear, we must be thankful that
we have a cook to break them."

Eventually, Why Not Now?

Mandy and Rastus had become engaged,
but Mandy still had misgivings.

"Big boy," she murmured one evening,
"Ah knows yo' loves me, but huccum you
comes roun' wantin' to marry me so soon
after yo' loses yo' job?"

"Sho, Mandy," he replied reassuringly,
"what's de difference does Ah quit work and
marry yo', or marry yo' an' quit work?"

A Timely Departure

"How did the checker game come out?"
asked the mayor of Goshwump.

"Wal," answered the proprietor of the
New York, Boston & Chicago Corner Gro-
cery & Dry Goods Emporium, "the boys
figgered out that if Heck hadn't work and
died, Seth would prob'ly of beat him."

Canny Prodigal

Sunday School Teacher: "Willie, can you
tell me why, after wandering so many years,
the prodigal son came home?"

Willie Wisecracker: "Cause he realized
that the calf was about fat enough, or
ought to be."

Evening Things Up

Two friends from a small town, one of
whom had tendencies toward exaggeration,
were starting for a visit to the city. Joe,
who knew the other's failing, cautioned him
in advance.

"Bill," he said, "I know you're a plumb
truthful feller and all that. And I sure like
to hear you tell it to 'em. But, by gosh,
sometimes you're a leetle too optimistic.
Why, some folks might think you were tell-
ing plain lies. Now, when we get to the
city and you get sort of stretchin' things,
I'll nudge you with my foot and you try
to ease off a mite."

On arriving they fell in with city ac-
quaintances who led them down to view the
newest skyscraper. Bill couldn't let such
an opportunity slip.

"Well enough," he said, "but, gents, back
in my town we're putting up a building
that'll make this one look like the under
side of a snake's tummy. Why, if you'll
believe me, it's goin' to be seventy-one
stories high, three-quarters of a mile long,
and—here he felt his friend's foot—
"and eight feet wide."

The Hidden Power

Jones was busily wielding a paint brush.
A would-be caller stopped.

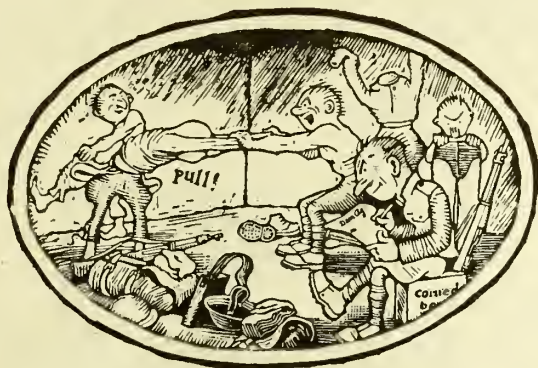
"Is your wife at home, Mr. Jones?" she
asked. Jones was equal to the occasion.

"My dear madam," he replied, "do you
imagine for one moment that I would be
doing this if she wasn't?"

Faithless Jack

He (continuing his narrative): "And
there I was close up to one of those Big
Berthas."

She: "Oh, Jack, you horrid thing! And
you told me you'd never look at a girl over
there."



Over the Top

Remember when the only time they gave you clean underwear was before an attack so you wouldn't get infected if a bullet plugged you? You literally had to fight for your underwear

Think of that the next time you pass one of the thousands of men's stores that sell Wilson Bro's. unionsuits They're worth fighting for again.

Wilson Bro's

LOOK FOR THE WILSON BRO'S SIGNATURE ON:

HOSE
SHIRTS
PAJAMAS
UNDERWEAR

BELTS
CRAVATS
NIGHTSHIRTS
HANDKERCHIEFS

GARTERS
MUFFLERS
SUSPENDERS
KNIT GLOVES

WILSON BRO'S, CHICAGO



Keep Fit

Walter Camp's Way - to Music !

A BRAND-NEW idea! Phonograph records—with the famous Yale coach's wonderful "Daily Dozen" exercises set to spirited music—make it surprisingly easy for you to keep in the pink of condition. More fascinating and enjoyable than a game. Walter Camp says: "Men and women can keep themselves fit with only 10 minutes a day—but the place where they must look after themselves is in the 'torso' or 'trunk muscles.'" Splendid, glorious vitality is not a matter of long, tiresome exercises with dumbbells, or of strenuous out-door games. It is yours the moment the vital "trunk muscles" are put into perfect condition. Walter Camp's special, scientifically-correct movements—done to lively music, with a voice on the records giving the commands—will soon produce a strong, supple "corset" of muscle about your waist. The causes of many annoying little ailments, that keep you from feeling fit, will be removed. Your chest will be enlarged, your wind improved. You will certainly want to try out Walter Camp's famous system—the most efficient ever devised!

RECORD FREE

See for yourself what this new Health Builder System (records and charts, showing every movement by actual photographs) will do for you—without a dollar of expense. We will send you, **entirely free**, a sample phonograph record carrying two of the special movements, with a voice giving the directions. Get this free record, put it on a phonograph, and try it. There is no obligation—the record is yours to keep. Just enclose a quarter (or 25 cents in stamps) with the coupon, to cover postage, packing, etc. Send coupon—to-day—now—to Health Builders, Dept. 174, Oyster Bay, New York.

FREE SAMPLE RECORD AND CHART

HEALTH BUILDERS, Dept. 174, Oyster Bay, N.Y.



postage, packing, etc. This does not obligate me in any way whatever and the sample record and chart are mine to keep.

Name (Please Write Plainly)

Address

City State

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Become a lawyer. Legally trained men win big positions and big success in business and public life. Greater opportunities now than ever before. Be independent—be a leader. Lawyers earn \$3,000 to \$10,000 Annually. We guide you step by step. You can train at home during spare time. Let us send you records and letters from LaSalle students admitted to the bar in various states. Money refunded according to our Guarantee. Send if dissatisfied. Degree of LL. B. conferred. Thousands of successful students enrolled. Low cost, easy terms. We furnish all text material, including fourteen-volume Law Library. Get our valuable 120-page "Law Guide" and "Evidence" books FREE. Send for them—NOW.
LaSalle Extension University, Dept. 4361-LA, Chicago

Are They the Two Oldest Legionnaires?

FIFTY years from now it may be possible to throw a stone in any direction and, if all your co-ordinates and azimuths and things are correct, bound it off the heads of a couple of Legionnaires whose combined ages are 165 years. To do it today, however, would require something more than mere expert marksmanship. The age of the average Legion member is still hovering somewhere below the thirty-year figure. But the Legion isn't an all-stripling outfit; even today it numbers a few white hairs, the owners of which are among the organization's most active and willing workers.

Take W. N. Williams, Lieutenant, U. S. A., retired, but not at all a retired Legionnaire. He is an enthusiastic member of George Washington Post of Washington, D. C., despite his 86 years. He is a veteran of the Civil, Indian and World Wars, missing out in the Mexican War not so much because he was only eleven years old at the time as because the family had something to say about his going. "Father's opinion," he says, "expressed by a thrashing, kept me at home until the war dogs barked at Fort Sumter." He was wounded at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge, but two years after the close of the Civil War he was in the Indian campaigns.

During the World War Lieutenant Williams served in the Quartermaster Corps. He was demobilized on his 83d birthday—January 15, 1919—after a service of almost 57 years.

Lieutenant Williams is, as has been said, an enthusiastic Legionnaire, but this does not prevent his having opinions of his own about the use of the word "convention" for the annual national assembly of the Legion. "Why not use the word encampment?" he asks. "Camps, camping, encampment mean a place for soldiers. Conven-

tion stands for partisan politicians, corn doctors and sich."

Eighty-six years for Lieutenant Williams—couple him with Albert W. Boggs, also a veteran of three wars, and you have a total of 165 years for the two. Mr. Boggs is the callow

youngster of the combination, tipping Father Time's scales for a mere 79 years. In fact, he is still such a husky lad that he now serves as sergeant-at-arms of Marshall Field and Company Post of Chicago.

Mr. Boggs, a native of Ohio,

Lieut. W. N. Williams (below) wanted to fight Mexico in 1845, but his family objected



Sgt. Albert W. Boggs, despite his 79 years, still maintains "the position of the soldier" when he gets his picture snapped. He saw Lincoln shot and three of the conspirators executed



enlisted in the Union Army in 1861 and was wounded by shrapnel near Raleigh, North Carolina. He also served in the Spanish-American and World Wars.

Mr. Boggs was a witness to the assassination of President Lincoln. He attended the performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theater in Washington on the fateful evening of April 14, 1865. Through his friendship with Assistant-Attorney General T. M. Vincent Mr. Boggs was able to be present at the trial of the conspirators and later saw three of them executed.

Her Birthday

By Challis Hadden Dawson

When I was five and you were four,
We might have known what was to be
Had God permitted us to see
The years ahead more than a score.

It took a war with all its hell,
Its murder, lust, and sacrifice—
Could God resort to such device
To join two souls that joined so well?

A transport steamed the mighty sea
And crossing, brought me near to you.

Cantigny, Soissons, Argonne, too,
Were sign posts pointing you to me.

Tomorrow you are twenty-nine.
Our childhoods were but yesterday.
Continue, love, to light the way,
That everlasting peace be mine.

Five-Dollar Service Census Prize Letters

(Continued from page 8)

dresser drawers. By the time he had heaped up two bushels of stuff in the middle of the floor I was sure he had seen at least five years' service.

After 45 minutes search he found the discharge—in his pocketbook in his hip pocket.

"When did you enlist?" I repeated.

"September 27, 1918."

"And when were you discharged?"

"September 29, 1918."

"Did you get your sixty-dollar bonus?"

"Oh, yas suh."

"Back pay?"

"Yas suh. Two dollars."

That, of course, is only a side show. In taking the census I ran across several veterans entitled to assistance who had never reported their cases.—JOHN R. WALKER, *Clinton (Ind.) Post*. Attested by Harry T. Brown, Post Commander.

A Medal and a Job

DURING the taking of the present service census I was talking to an ex-service man, filling in his questionnaire. He had joined our post a few months before. I learned in taking the census that he had not received his Victory Medal and was unemployed. After I had helped him fill out his application he received his medal and was very pleased. Then I proceeded to put him in touch with two or three possible positions that were open. One of them developed into a real thing and he is now working. The real need for such a census as the Legion is conducting is proved beyond question.—L. O. BARREN, *Yonkers (N. Y.) Post*. Attested by Joseph Meslin, Adjutant.

Help Your Disabled Buddy

THE queries given below are printed in behalf of disabled men seeking to get in touch with comrades whose aid is necessary to substantiate claims for government compensation. This magazine will publish further inquiries from men seeking proof of disabilities incurred in service, but can do so only after the usual means of obtaining the information have failed.

R. H. AMBROSE, c/o Western Union, Denver, Col., needs addresses of the following men who were with him in the service: Z. D. Ross, John Bodker, Harry Freye, Carl L. Horbin, Henry Worsham, Arthur Washington, W. R. Paul, Henry Henderson, Arthur H. Printo, M. F. Cates, H. Dunbar, P. Peterson, Claud Bell, C. A. Barnes, Charles Fowler, Guy Evans.

LEROY G. BRAGG, Oxford Spring Sanitarium, Oxford, Me., desires address of Capt. C. P. Rice, medical officer in charge 335th Fld. Art. Infirmary at St. Lubes, France, in Jan., 1918.

THERON WARREN COOPER, Box 341, Glendive, Mont., seeks addresses of Capt. Davis, M.C., adjutant of 2d Bn., 161st Depot Brigade Infirmary, Camp Grant, Ill., in fall of 1918, or of any other members of infirmary staff or convalescents who knew him. Also the addresses of any members of 8th and 20th Cos. 161st Depot Brigade in fall of 1918.

NED M. DAVIS, Gettysburg, S. D., desires addresses of the following men, all formerly of 13th Fld Art.: Capt. J. Hallam Boyd, 2d Lt. John Bethea, Capt. John Vanderhoof, 2d Lt. Paul F. Amort, Capt. Charles W. McCleary, 1st Lt. Stuart H. Bowman, M.C., 1st Lt. Howard Gamble, 1st Lt. Fred Lyle.

ODES C. HAYES, formerly Co. K, 26th Inf., wishes to locate Oscar Cornwell of North Dakota and Sgt. Wier or Weir of Pennsylvania. Address care Garrett Cochran Post, Williamsport, Pa.

WESLEY E. TULL, Oblong, Ill., needs addresses of Capt. P. D. White, Lt. Col. Warren L. Babcock, Capt. R. A. Hatch and Maj. R. C. Cabat, all late of Base Hosp. No. 6, Bordeaux.

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Legionnaire Denby not only paid his dues—he mailed his own subscription card. If you know any delinquents who will miss this copy of the Weekly, show them this and say, "Do a Denby."

Keeping Step with the Legion

(Continued from page 9)

liberal disposition of posts to render assistance" to strayed veterans but cautioning them against "transient and professional tourists."

With the hope of protecting posts against such exploitation, the following general principles have been laid down by National Headquarters:

Before any transportation shall be granted, the official having the matter in hand must be satisfied with full and reliable evidence first, that the applicant is unable to pay the regular fare; second, that the applicant's condition will be materially improved by sending him to the place in question; third, that the applicant will have such resources for his maintenance at the point of destination as will save him from becoming dependent, and fourth, that the applicant either has a legal residence in the place to which he desires to be sent, or may be justly considered a charge upon that community.

The adjutant should arrange for temporary care for the person or persons in question while at the same time inquiring for a report, preferably by wire, from the post or other reliable source of information at or nearest to the proposed destination. Transportation should neither be furnished nor refused until such a report is received. In case it is provided it must be adequate—sufficient to carry the applicant through to the journey's end rather than to a halfway point where he would have to go through the process again. The practice of "passing along" is not tolerated by reliable social agencies and must not be used by posts.

The question of the applicant's employment or living prospects in the other community or of his belonging there must be answered by definite facts rather than generalized statements. When a post is asked for such information, it is expected to investigate at once and reply immediately.

If the post in the home community refuses to authorize transportation the case should only be handled as the facts may merit.

Rank in the Legion

WE are of those who dislike to hear the question of war-time rank discussed in the Legion. This is not because we survived the war as a buck private, although we admit we still feel as though we had been put in our place when a fellow Legionnaire says, "I was a corporal." Anyway, the whole rank question is getting so dim in the perspective of time that we find ourselves confusing second lieutenants with enlisted men and sergeants major with lieutenant colonels. We have already decided that in the next war we are going to be a sergeant major because no military title sounds more impressive—not even the captain-general one they had in the Boche army.

We were set going on this train of thought by reading something from the publication of J. Hunter Wickersham Post of Denver, Colorado. Here are the sentiments on this question of the editor of the *Wickersham Reveille*, and they are our sentiments too:

Some time ago the Denver Central Committee sent out a bulletin to all Legionnaires in which the question, "What's wrong with the Legion?" was asked. A member of our post, in a communication to the writer, among other things said that in his opinion the trouble lay in the fact that officers were getting control of the Legion. We question very much whether this is the case, and certainly it is not true in so far as Wickersham Post is concerned. Let us see. We will take last year's officers, for instance.

The commander was a gob and the vice-commander was a captain in the Quartermaster Corps. The adjutant was a cadet in the Air Service, and the finance officer was an enlisted man in the same branch. The historian was an enlisted man in the Medical Corps, while the sergeant-at-arms held the same rank in the Suicide Club. The post chaplain was an army chaplain.

Rank does not exist in the Legion and the writer will lay a wager that not five percent of the members of Wickersham Post knew just what its last year's officers were in the service until they read the foregoing.

We took last year's officers to prove the fallacy of the statement that officers were getting control of the Legion because it was last year we received the above-mentioned letter from one of our members. But how about it now? How many of you know what your present officers were when they were in the service? The writer can't tell you because he doesn't know and he's a post officer also.

His Suit of Blue

By Thomas J. Murray

His suit of blue is laid away,
His hitch is served and he is through;
But he will treasure night and day,
His suit of blue.

He will recall when landsman new,
Corregidor, Manila Bay;
And lands where cherry blossoms grew.

The port lights stained by tossing spray,
He will remember, and his crew;
These thoughts will keep from disarray
His suit of blue.

Why Tear the Tattered Ensign Down?

(Continued from page 6)

are able to limit the number of men to 65,000 the people of this country may be deceived into believing that the United States Navy is on a 5:5:3 ratio with that of Great Britain and Japan, whereas actually it will be reduced to about 2½:5:3 ratio.

The American people have spent many hundreds of millions on the Navy. If the Navy is to be of value, it must be ready at once for any emergency and no part of the fleet should be considered as a fighting unit unless fully manned and ready to act. A ship that is manned by less than one hundred percent of its personnel must be considered as in the second line. If Congressman Kelly's recommendation is followed by Congress, the United States Navy will drop from first place, approved by the recent naval treaty, and will become a second rate naval power.

Taking into consideration the short term of enlistment in the United States Navy and the other points mentioned above, any reduction of personnel below the present authorized strength of 106,000 will remove us from first place and such removal will not be acceptable to the citizens of the United States who love and admire the spirit and devotion shown by the personnel of the Navy.

It would be far better to dismantle and tie up all our ships and honestly say that we have no navy than to deceive our people into believing that we have the finest Navy in the world ready for any emergency. France had her lesson in 1870. Let no pusillanimous, pussy-footing pacifists put us in a similar perilous position in 1922.

Let's go full speed on all engines when emergency requires and not blow out a single gasket.

Use Your Head, Buddy!

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Ex-Service Boxers Near the Top

(Continued from page 7)

with Carpentier in Europe. Although a \$300,000 purse has been offered for a Wills-Dempsey fight, at present it looks to be only a possibility.

As for a return Dempsey-Carpentier bout in Europe, George Underwood, boxing expert, says it has been "building up" from the instant that the referee stopped counting ten over the poilu at Jersey City. Dempsey's victory has been belittled by French and English writers, who make much of Carpentier staggering the champion in the second round and insist that he would have won if he had only made a running fight.

Many European writers argue that Dempsey knocked out Carpentier with a questionable blow, the rabbit punch, delivered at the back of the neck. They won't be satisfied on the other side until they see a return match.

In taking an inventory of former service men in the ring, don't count out our old friend Bob Martin, Interalled and A. E. F. heavyweight champion, who wants to fight Dempsey in 1923 after a little more seasoning. Here then are three Legionnaires in the heavier classes just rarin' to go—Greb, the former sailor; Tunney, the ex-marine, and Martin, the A. E. F. soldier. It's dollars to francs that one of these will win a championship. Let's look them over.

Harry Greb of New Brighton, Pennsylvania, who served eighteen months in the Navy during the war, unlike Tunney and Martin, fought before enlisting and is considered somewhat of a veteran with his accumulation of twenty-seven summers, nine years' experience in the ring and 220 battles within the ropes. He stands five feet eight and one-half inches tall, and tips the scale between 160 and 168 pounds, yet he cannot be considered a small man as he has a reach of seventy-four inches, one inch longer than that of Carpentier. This added five and one-half inches of arm stretch—for a man's arm span from finger tip to finger tip, according to anatomists, should equal his height—enables him to whip heavyweights.

Greb's physique recalls the freakish build of Bob Fitzsimmons with the shoulders and arms of a 200-pounder and the legs of a lightweight, yet weighing from 155 to 170 pounds during his twenty-odd years in the ring. Harry has a long body, what the tailors call long-waisted, and when he sits down his shoulders reach two inches higher than the average of his height.

His peculiar build, low visibility, windmill delivery, long arms and powerful back drives, give him the stuff to meet the big boys. He spotted poundage to Kid Norfolk, negro light heavyweight champion, and after being knocked down in the third round got up and punched the colored man from corner to corner slashing his eye with a blow that required six stitches.

Greb has averaged a fight every two weeks for the last nine years. Like others in the game he has battled the same man several times. His series with Fay Kaiser since 1914 total eight contests, or in all seventy-four rounds, and whenever the referee decided he held up Harry's glove as victor.

He chased Tom Gibbons several miles in four great races; a ten-round no-

decision contest in 1915, two ten-round draws last year and at New York on March 13 soundly whipped Tom in fifteen rounds and caused the sure-thing gamblers to lose thousands of dollars as he was on the short end, 1 to 2. He out-cuffed Bill Brennan in fifteen rounds in 1919 and in addition fought him two ten-round no-decision battles. Bill, be it remembered, stuck around with Jack Dempsey for twelve rounds before he kissed the canvas. Harry entertained Billy Miske in three fights, whipped Captain Bob Roper twice in 1920, fought Bartley Madden, Battling Levinsky, Eddie McGoorty and Mike McTigue and duplicated the feat of Harry Wills by sinking poor old Gunboat Smith in one round.

No mistake about it, Greb has a fighting heart, will box any human on two legs, and doesn't go round the country picking soft ones to pad out his record book, but takes them as they come. He says he wants to be middleweight, next light heavyweight and then heavyweight champion, which is some ambition for so young a man.

Next meet James Joseph Tunney, nicknamed Gene, born and still living at 111 Bank Street, Greenwich Village, New York, private in the 11th Marines during the war and light heavyweight champion of America since defeating Levinsky on Friday, January 13, 1922. After the contest, the old Battler said Gene can whip Carpentier.

"Tunney and Carpentier," commented the deposed champion, "are different kinds of fighters. Each has a style of his own. Carpentier fights at long range, gives long, straight punches, and uses a leaping in-and-out style. Tunney fights in close at short range, flat-footed and shuffling, with arms bent in a hook and delivers choppy punches. He lands more than Carpentier but, while they sting, I don't think they carry as much force as those the Frenchman rips over."

"Well, would you say Tunney has a chance to beat Carpentier?" he was asked.

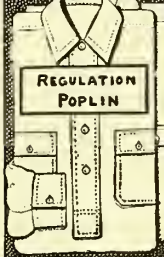
"I certainly think he has," retorted Levinsky emphatically. "I don't think Carpentier is a great fighter."

Tunney developed in the service, enlisting in the marines at nineteen, when he stood five feet ten and one-half inches and weighed 154 pounds. To-day, at twenty-three, he stands six feet one-quarter inch and weighed 172 pounds the night he conquered Levinsky. His manager, Doc Bagley, expects him to add ten or fifteen pounds before he turns twenty-five, at which age he will be ready to talk uncle with the champion of champions.

Gene won a four-round verdict over Bob Martin at the Nouveau Cirque, Paris, in a welfare organization bout, which was their only meeting, but didn't compete in the A. E. F. tournament because he injured his frail hands in training. His soft, flexible typist hands—Gene pounded a machine in a steamship office after leaving high school—didn't fit his strong young body and when he hit solid jaw bones and skull his fists crumpled up just as old Bob Fitzsimmons' used to do. This weakness, the ex-leatherneck was told, had to be overcome if he hoped to become a champion.

Tunney began a systematic process of

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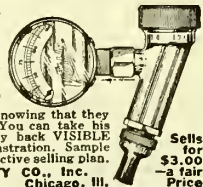
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toughening his hands. He left New York far behind for the woods of Quebec, Canada, where for three months he hired out as a lumberjack and swung an axe and wielded a crowbar on the pines and spruces of the forest. Next he labored at Poland Springs, Maine, after which his once lily whites became as knotted, gnarled and calloused as a well-digger's paws.

Of course, his entire system benefited, and after months of this back-to-nature training, which all city boys crave, Gene dropped back to civilization long enough to knock out such boxers as Martin Burke and Eddie O'Hare and then won the title from Levinsky. Gene is a splendid example of the results of service boxing and with his magnetic personality would make a popular champion.

Unlike Tunney, the city-bred boy, Bob Martin is a hairy mountaineer from the Alleghanies of West Virginia. It was there to the town of Terra Alta that Jimmy Bronson, his manager, chased him for a long rest after 100 battles in the squared circle since 1917.

Now Bob has started on a nine-months tour of Legion posts, in the manner of John L. Sullivan, to meet all comers, after which tour, provided he isn't knocked out by some unknown, he will seek a return match with Bill Brennan or some other contender for the right to meet Dempsey. The A. E. F. champion wants to wipe out that fifteen round defeat Bill won over him last year.


Many think Bob should again box Fay Kaiser to atone for that setback in twelve rounds at Baltimore last September. Martin has also lost to Gene Tunney, Sergeant Ray Smith and Captain Bob Roper, but has never been knocked out.

Captain Roper and Martin boxed four times, three ten-round no-decisions, and in a fourth fight, Roper won a twelve-round verdict over the one-time sergeant. The former service men at the ringside spoofed the top kick and captain, shouting to each: "Put him on K. P., Cap," "Take his chevrons away and make him a private," "Knock him out, Bob, he ain't got the old shoulder bars on now."

Martin has the old sock in his powerful arms judging from his record of nineteen consecutive knockouts in one run and fourteen in another. Of his 100 fights he has won eighty-four by a knockout, including as victims Frank Moran, Gunboat Smith, Sergeant Ray Smith, Paul Journee, chief sparring partner and chef of Georges Carpentier, Martin Burke, Arthur Pelkey and Captain Gordon Coughill of Australia.

Bob became twenty-one years old Armistice Day, 1918, so is only twenty-four to-day; stands six feet two inches, weighs 195 pounds, and gives his nationality in the record book as Irish-Scotch-Indian-American. Considering that Martin saw his first boxing glove in the service, his rise has been rapid.

Taking it all in all, 1922 and 1923 should be big years in the ring for Uncle Sam's former fighting men. The boxers developed in the service are fighting their way to the top. Many of them receive little public notice but nevertheless they are rushing forward every contest. Perhaps by Armistice Day, 1923, all the championship belts will adorn the waists of Americans who wore uniforms during the biggest fight of the century.



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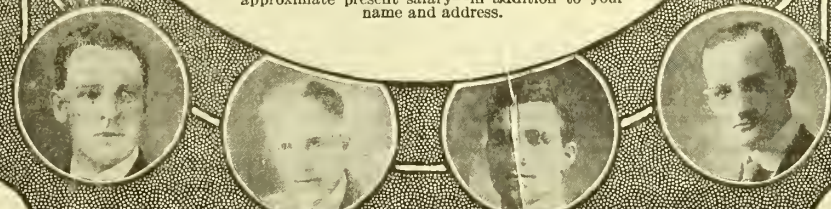
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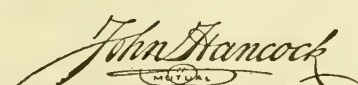
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What the British Legion Is Doing

(Continued from page 6)

these attempts broke down for one reason or another. The time was not then ripe.

In January, 1920, a fourth organization came upon the scene, namely, the Officers' Association, formed by Earl Haig, freed at last from his herculean labors in France to devote himself to the welfare of those who had helped him to win victory. Lord Haig's object in forming this association was no doubt a double one—that of assisting the thousands of ex-officers who were badly in need of assistance and who looked upon the other organizations as devoted mainly to the rank and file, and that of helping forward the cause of unity. He has been successful in both objects. The Officers' Association has done magnificent work in helping thousands of ex-officers who were stranded after the war and were not entitled to any unemployment grant.

By the autumn of 1920, the Association, the Comrades and the Federation were certainly feeling that they had got as far as they could hope to get and that the ex-service man was tired of this continued rivalry and looked to them to combine forces. After some private negotiations, a committee representative of the above three organizations plus the Officers' Association met together to devise ways and means of amalgamation and to draw up a draft constitution. At the outset it was made clear that the object in view was not merely coalition, but an absolute fusion, the respective headquarters entirely disappearing as such. (The Officers' Association being under Royal Charter cannot conform to this until the British Legion itself obtains a Royal Charter.)

It was agreed, and this was an essential factor in the fusion, that there should be no pooling of assets; that no financially sound Club, for instance, should have to shoulder the debts of a bankrupt Club; but that if in any town, say with a population of 50,000 or so, there were two Branches, each possessing a Club, every endeavor should be made to form one Branch without putting any pressure on the two Clubs to coalesce.

The work of drawing up the Constitution and all the arrangements for the Fusion Conference proved to be a lengthy business, especially as nearly all those concerned in the negotiations could only meet on Saturdays or Sundays and often had to travel long distances.

The question of the extent of the Area which should be entitled to send delegates to the Conference proved a considerable difficulty, but eventually it was agreed that the unit in country districts should be the Parish Council, and in towns the Parliamentary Division. Where, say, there was a Branch of the Comrades and a Branch of the Federation in a town with only one Parliamentary representative, then the two Branches had to meet and agree on one individual as their delegate. In view of past history this, as you can imagine, was not always a pleasant Sunday afternoon meeting!

At Whitsuntide, 1921, the great Conference took place in the Queen's Hall, London. Despite serious industrial disturbances, 800 delegates were present. Mr. Lister presided and succeeded,

after two days' hard work, by admirable skill and patience, in getting the present constitution of the British Legion adopted. The Prince of Wales was invited to be Patron and Lord Haig was elected President. The delegates agreed that the Committee for the first year should consist of six representatives respectively elected by each of the four combined organizations. The title unanimously agreed upon was that of the British Legion, and the people responsible for putting forward this title were influenced to no small extent by the thought of its being an additional link with our American cousins.

Moreover, in drawing up the principles and policy of the Legion, no little assistance was afforded by the admirable wording contained in the Constitution of The American Legion, as this paragraph testifies:

The Legion shall exist to perpetuate in the civil life of the Empire and the World the principles for which we have fought; to inculcate a sense of loyalty to the Crown, Community, State, and Nation; to promote unity amongst all classes; to make right the master of might; to secure peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy, and to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual service and helpfulness.

The delegates were emphatic on the necessity of keeping the Legion entirely free from party politics:

The Legion shall be democratic, non-sectarian, and not affiliated to or connected directly or indirectly with any political party or political organization.

Since the fusion, the British Legion has gone steadily ahead. Perhaps the most encouraging sign has been the manner in which old animosities have subsided and the extent to which unity has been achieved.

What of the work of the Legion in the future? This will undoubtedly divide itself into three categories, Social, Benevolent, and Combative.

The Social side will be kept up by the hundreds of Legion Clubs which exist all over the country and which the Legion intends to make not only centres of comradeship, but institutions where an attractive educative scheme shall contribute to building up a sound citizenship.

On the Benevolent side a great work is being done at the present moment in helping to relieve the very great distress which exists amongst ex-service men throughout the country. Considerable sums of money have been collected with the valuable help of our President's name, and these sums are controlled from Headquarters by a Special Relief Committee which sends out the money to the various Branches of the Legion, as and when required, insisting on a scrupulous return as to how the money has been spent. In addition to this assistance directly given to meet the distress of the moment, committees are at work assisting ex-service men to set up in business for themselves, and in the last few months no less than 499 business loans have been made to individuals, free of interest but to be refunded within a stated period, and, in addition, some 107 collective business

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schemes for ex-service men on the same principle have been set in being. As soon as trade begins to revive, the various Employment Committees of the Legion Branches will get busy to see that the Legion's programme of preference to the ex-service man is adhered to throughout the country.

As to the Combative side, this will probably take the form in the future, not so much of fighting for further privileges (although there are several which the nation still owes to the men who saved the country) but in keeping a firm hold on those which have already been obtained. The experience of all former wars shows that without an organization thoroughly alive and thoroughly determined, the State inevitably forgets what it owes to the ex-fighter, and will endeavor to economize at his expense.

Paradoxical as it may seem, on the Combative side of our work must be included the fight for the maintenance of peace. The ex-service men's organizations can and must exercise a great power for peace throughout the world, for it is the members of these organizations, having had the horrors of war impressed on their memory in a way impossible to anyone who has not taken part in the actual combat, who must stand shoulder to shoulder in the cause of peace even as they stood shoulder to shoulder in the cause of war. This argument alone should surely be a sufficient one for any ex-service man who doubts the value or the necessity of helping forward our respective organizations. For there is at the present time a comradeship between The American Legion, our French comrades, and the British Legion which rests on a surer and more solid basis than that possessed by any other society in these three nations. We are linked up by the memory of dangers shared and hardships endured on many a battlefield, and surely it would be nothing less than criminal apathy to allow these precious links to rust into weakness.

I have been writing mainly of the formation of the British Legion, but the British Legion is only one part of the ex-service men's organizations throughout the British Empire. In the spring of last year, Lord Haig, accompanied by Captain E. B. B. Towse, V. C., and Captain Donald Simson, proceeded to Cape Town and there, after a Conference lasting many days, the British Empire Services League (B. E. S. L.) was formed.

At that conference in addition to the British Legion, then in process of formation, there were represented the ex-service organizations of Australia, New Zealand, Newfoundland, Rhodesia, Canada and South Africa, almost a dozen in all.

Lord Haig was elected first President, and the Headquarters were fixed in London. The immediate objects of the British Empire Services League are to make a comparative study of the legislation for ex-service men in different parts of the Empire so that all may benefit by the experience of each, and to let any member of the League know that wherever he goes throughout the Empire, the hand of comradeship will be held out to him by the respective organizations.

Finally, following up this same idea of fostering and developing the comradeship of men who have fought for a common cause and that one of the noblest of all causes, we have the Inter-

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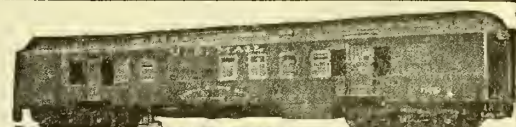
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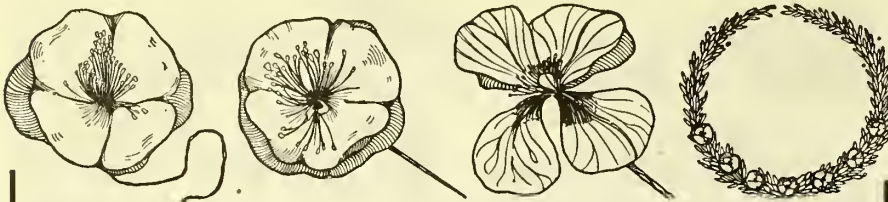


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Price.....\$21 per dozen

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Allied Federation of Ex-Service Men, called by the initial French letters, the F. I. D. A. C. The Headquarters of this organization are in Paris and the President is that distinguished and gallant comrade Monsieur Charles Bertrand, already well known to many of your readers. The Fidac has only been in existence for a little over a year, but has already done great work in counterbalancing by its comradeship disruptive tendencies which, alas, too often make themselves felt.

I believe that the F. I. D. A. C. has a great future in front of it. I rejoice in that thought because I know how already it has helped to bring closer together the British and American Legion. And, after my wonderful visit to Kansas City, where I was overwhelmed both by the cordiality of my reception and by the energy, enthusiasm and magnitude of your Legion, you will appreciate what importance I attach to our respective associations getting closer and closer together in the years to come.

And to all members of The American Legion who visit our country I say: Come and look up the British Legion (the history of which I have endeavored to summarize) at our Headquarters, 26 Eccleston Square, London. I can assure them of a most hearty welcome and they will obtain from such a visit a far better idea of the scope of our activities than is possible for my pen to convey.

Facts the Service Census Is Proving

(Continued from page 8)

the discharge certificate were difficult to fill in in the absence of the certificate, often necessitating a second call. The average person was able to furnish the necessary information rapidly enough, however, to allow the canvasser to fill out one form every ten minutes. It was only rarely found that the form was considered too long.

Among the foreign population in a few parts of the State it was occasionally difficult to convince the ex-service men of the importance of the census. Many of them were not interested in becoming members, but it is thought this condition prevailed because of lack of knowledge of English. One Russian colony had received a vague impression that Legion membership might involve them in the National Guard and thus entail strike duty.

A few men holding union cards were found here and there who felt that the Legion and organized labor are at variance. Our canvassers, however, put up convincing arguments on this question and it is expected that most of the men will come in later if not at once. It was most exceptional to find a man who assumed the attitude that he was doing the Legion a favor by furnishing the information, although such a case was discovered now and then.

A review of the questionnaires now coming in shows that the men were not backward in stating what the Legion should do. Present indications lead us to believe that they would first have us care for the disabled and their dependents. They were almost unanimous in expressing a belief that the Legion should work for adjusted compensation. There were those who are decidedly of the opinion that we should work to eliminate some of the so-called

government red tape. A few expressed themselves as favoring politics for the Legion, but the final review will almost certainly show them to be in a small minority. Choice of options under the adjusted compensation plan went for adjusted service certificates and farm and home aid.

The taking of the census in this State has revealed a real obligation on the part of the Legion to care for the unemployment situation for some time to come. Men now out of employment are not merely temporarily unemployed but have been, in some instances, since the war. The situation, however, is not alarming considering the relatively small proportion.

The census has made it possible to place in The American Legion archives the records of thousands who served their country—records which might otherwise never have been assembled in any one place. The information shows that comparatively few men have received their Victory Medals.

Above all, we are now more convinced than ever that the Legion has a tremendous program laid out for it in caring for our disabled comrades and their families. Many claims are pending while many others have been adjusted in some degree but not satisfactorily. It is too early to predict how many were uninformed and did not know that they are entitled to any rights under the United States Government, but the census has revealed that such conditions exist.

From some sections of the State have come reports that the census is a world-beater as a membership-getter. Many canvassers feel that while some may not find it possible just now to join the Legion, a great majority will do so when follow-up membership campaigns are launched during the next two years.

Comparatively little real opposition to the Legion has developed during the service campaign. Almost all veterans seem to be in sympathy with the organization and expect to join some day. From the standpoint of membership, the questionnaires can be used by posts for years to come in building up the organization. The campaign has meant much to us in securing the further good will and confidence of not only the ex-service man, but his family as well.

Just how efficient the campaign has been, it is difficult to say. From every angle it is safe to predict that it will prove at least seventy-five percent efficient in Kansas. Had we expected it to be only 10 percent efficient, it would still have been greatly worth while.

When the work is finished practically no portions of the State will have been left untouched. Only one county out of 105 has been reported as having fallen down on the job, and it is a known fact that only 18 ex-service men live in that entire county—and 15 of them are already members of the Legion.

The service census in Kansas has proved to the public that The American Legion is on the job and interested. It has demonstrated that we are not discriminating against an ex-service man just because he has not yet seen fit or found it possible to join our organization. It has given concrete expression to that highest ideal of The American Legion—service to our comrades and service to our country.

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| 5th Prize | 5.00 | 50.00 | 100.00 |
| 6th Prize | 3.00 | 25.00 | 75.00 |
| 7th Prize | 3.00 | 20.00 | 50.00 |
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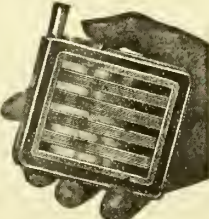
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THE VOICE OF THE LEGION

The Editors disclaim responsibility for statements made in this department. Because of space demands, letters are subject to abridgement.

Supposing He Had?

To the Editor: When I listen to the various arguments against adjusted compensation, I wonder what would have happened if, in the year 1917, I had offered to any person who cared to take my place in the Army, the following inducements:

My monthly army pay.

My War Risk Insurance, and the privilege of paying for it.

All my chances for state and national adjusted compensation.

My chances for a pension.

The undying homage of a grateful nation, which "knows no price."

Wouldn't there have been a mad scramble from every Chamber of Commerce in the land?—EMIL BUEHLER, *Alma, Wis.*

The Contract Hospital

To the Editor: The Legion has been waging a campaign to abolish the plan of placing veterans in contract hospitals. The writer, of course, is not an authority on contract hospitals in general but has been assigned to several in Philadelphia. He also has had experience as a patient in the government-owned and controlled hospital at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The surgeons in the latter place enjoy a good reputation with the men but medical skill is not so conspicuously present. Maybe these physicians have been ruined by regulations but I have got a hunch that they never would be rated top-notchers outside.

No "corps man" can ever equal the civilian hospital trained nurse. The nurse in the Navy is apparently only a bed-maker and chart-keeper. You get your medicine at the Philadelphia Navy Yard when you bother the corps man for it. It is more "naval" than "hospital"—and a corps man will get off easier for neglecting a patient than for having dirty "whites" at inspection. At these weekly inspections I have seen treatments abandoned so that the brass could look nice and shiny. The corps men are not to be blamed. The system that calls for shiny brass is more important than a sick veteran.

Government hospitals will be the best thing no doubt for the T.B. and N.-P. men. But for general medical skill, no government hospital will ever present such an array of talent as that found at the U. of P. Graduate School at the Polyclinic and Medico-Chi hospitals in this city. Most of these men have studied for years at their specialties and have had a wide practice. They are just good enough to teach graduate physicians who come from all parts of the world. They charge handsome prices at their offices but the veteran gets the same treatment at the contract price.

Before the Legion goes in for wholesale slashing of the contract hospital let it ponder over this comparison of a good civilian hospital with a poor government one.—S. I. G., *Philadelphia, Pa.*

The First Line of Defense

To the Editor: It is apparent that the Regular Army is being reduced to a point where there will be barely enough left to furnish a police force and perhaps one peace-time division. The National Guard automatically becomes the first line of defense and it is one of the missions of the Regular Army to make that line as efficient as possible. It is believed if the important needs of the Guard are pointed out one at a time by proper publicity that there will soon be full co-operation by all regular officers.

The writer has been associated off and on with the National Guard for thirty-five years and wishes to emphasize the important need of a sufficient number of trained and competent Regular sergeants. The Regular officer on duty with Regular troops must bring himself to the state of mind where he will give up to the Guard a fair proportion of his very best men.

None but the best are wanted. What is the use of holding on to these best sergeants in peace when they are sure to be scattered in war? What happened in the World War? The best men were made officers or otherwise scattered. So it is evident that every possible efficient non-com should be given to the civilian army during peace.

It makes no difference whether the National Guard is the best or the worst system in the world. It is here to stay. All efforts in the past to discourage it have proved fruitless and it has come back stronger than ever. The people of the United States want this system and are willing to pay for it. Similarly if the people want the Reserve system and military training in schools they will have these. Therefore the Regular Army should turn itself loose on the civilian army and give it all it has. When called upon for a master sergeant, or a sergeant of the second or third grade, it should give the best possible.

At present three officers and five non-coms are authorized for each National Guard regiment. A better proportion would be one officer and twenty-five non-coms. Each regiment should have four or five technical sergeants and each company, troop, battery, etc., one good old-time sergeant. At present the State of Minnesota, where the writer is Senior Instructor, has ten non-coms—less than half the allowance. There is no money to pay commutation of rations and quarters for the full quota.

This is the psychological time to go after an allowance of five thousand non-coms for the National Guard. If there is going to be a reduction of five thousand officers in the Regular Army, the plan of adding five thousand non-coms, for service with the National Guard, ought to present itself to the country as a practical, economical and popular proposition. At any rate, such a request can not have any marks of selfishness on the part of the regular officers.—E. L. BUTTS, *Col. U. S. Infantry, Senior Instr. Minn. Natl. Guard.*

A Convention in Paris?

To the Editor: Why not an American Legion National Convention in Paris, France, some time in the next five years? There are many Legion men who would like to go back to France and renew old friendships made across the sea in the years 1917-18.

If agitation were started now and plans made to hold a convention there many new members would come into the Legion knowing that in time we would be able to go back. Steamships could be chartered which would give a special rate if enough could be secured.

No doubt Paris would be glad to take care of a convention of this kind and would see that the delegates were properly entertained.

This is only an idea. It might be good and it might have its disadvantages. What do other members of the Legion think?—GLENN G. BALCOM, *Kenosha (Wis.) Post.*

"T. A. L."

To the Editor: In a recent issue of the Weekly there appeared an editorial under the caption "A. L.?" saying "'G. A. R.' has a fine, open-voweled sonority that 'A. L.' lacks. There is, too, a rhythm in the group of three initials which is missing when they become two."

Why not adopt the initial letters of The American Legion? "T. A. L." contains the rhythm that is lacking in "A. L." and, when sounded as a word with the vowel short, its pronunciation is easy and the sound is not displeasing. Then, too, those letters constitute the stem of the latin word "Talus," meaning talon, a part of an eagle, and Fritz will long remember the TALON of the American Eagle.—R. K. GARFIELD, *Elburn Ill.*



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Minnesota's Mascot

MINNESOTA believes in the Legion. Minnesota also believes in signs. They've put the two together. Result: A Minnesota Legion insignia which is proving so popular that Minnesota, knowing a good thing when it sees it, wants to see a department insignia adopted by every State in the Union. P. L. O'Toole, assistant adjutant of the Department of Minnesota, says: "We intend to use this insignia



in every conceivable manner. Around it we are rallying former service men who heretofore have remained indifferent to our appeals to back up the Legion. Before, it was a vague national body we asked them to back—now we are asking them to back us for the sake of our home State as well as for the national good." Minnesota's upright little prairie beagle, emblazoned on a lapel button, adorned the coat of every Minnesotan at Kansas City.

Back Pay for Air Service Cadets

APPROXIMATELY 10,000 former Air Service Cadets are expected to file claims for back pay with the Finance Officer of the War Department as the result of a recent decision of the Court of Claims in Washington in the case of Rider vs. the United States.

The court ruled that former air cadets, who originally had received special pay of \$100 a month and had been later reduced to \$33 a month, the pay of a first class private, are now entitled to collect back pay to bring their total pay up to \$100 a month for the period spent as flying cadets. In addition, former Air Service Cadets are entitled by the decision to collect extra back pay for their flight service. This special flight pay was 50 percent of the regular pay, and when the cadets were cut to \$33 a month regular pay, they were given only \$16.50 a month flight pay. They may now collect the additional flight pay to bring the total up to \$50 a month. This means that in most cases the former air cadets will collect the difference between \$49.50 and \$150 a month for the period of their flight service.

The recent decision followed a year's battle waged in the courts by a former Air Service Cadet. The Government still has the right to carry the case to the Supreme Court. Claims should be sent direct to the Finance Officer of the War Department in Washington. An attorney is unnecessary.

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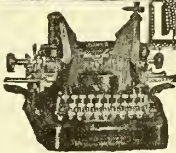
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Every man who fought in it, every man who ever belonged to it, will get a thrill of pride in the reading of this immortal epic of the glorious part they played in the Great War.

It is the only complete history of the 27th Division—two magnificent volumes, over 1200 pages, with more than 200 actual photographs of you and your comrades of those hectic days. It will be a precious heritage for your family for all time. It will be a never-ending source of pleasure when you and your buddies get together. It will be an object of pride to your children for generations to come.

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THE LEGION LIBRARY

Through the medium of The American Legion Weekly, The American Legion expects to assemble a complete library covering the field of American activity in the World War. It is intended ultimately to assemble this library in a room of its own, preferably at National Headquarters. Books received in the office of this magazine for inclusion in the library are listed on receipt, and in most cases noticed in reviews.

Books Received

SEA LANES. By Burt Franklin Jenness. The Cornhill Company, Boston.
ME, AN' WAR GOIN' ON. By John Palmer Cumming. The Cornhill Company, Boston.
LIFE AND LETTERS OF SIDNEY RANKIN DREW. Edited by Mrs. Sidney Drew. The Cheltenham Press, New York. Sold for benefit of S. Rankin Drew Post, American Legion, New York.
PRACTICAL MINOR TACTICS. By Jens Bugge. D. Appleton and Company, New York.
THE REDEMPTION OF THE DISABLED. By Garrard Harris. D. Appleton and Company, New York.

N. Y. D.*

WITH most divisional histories, the buck has been passed to an historical committee of one or two hardworking staff officers. In the case of the 27th, however, General O'Ryan has followed the example of Julius Caesar and taken on the job himself. Whether or not there are drawbacks in having the history of an organization written by its commanding officer, there are certain decided advantages. Particularly in this case—General O'Ryan had served in the New York National Guard long before the war, had commanded it ever since 1912, mobilized it in 1916 and carried it down to the border. When war was declared, he carried out the reorganization of the division in which its name was changed from the 6th to the 27th, and one of its oldtime regiments, the 69th, was taken off to make up the Manhattan contribution to the Rainbow. After going through the training period at Camp Wadsworth, S. C., General O'Ryan took the division abroad, into action, and brought it home again. No one, therefore, could claim a better right to tell its story.

Moreover, General O'Ryan's history has nothing of the official report about it and is not a staff narrative giving a general survey of things. On the contrary, it is very personal and informal, written from the point of view of an officer intimately acquainted with the personnel of his military family, and keenly appreciative of what they did. He makes frank comment on the rulings of higher quarters which historians of lesser rank might have thought necessary to keep to themselves—and rightly or wrongly, some readers may feel in the book a decided note of criticism toward the War Department and toward official regulations in general.

The New York National Guard regiments had brought with them to France their old reputation, and on looking over the new division the British evidently decided that it could be counted on for business, for they promptly sent it up to an important sector of the front, just under the lost Mount Kemmel. They planned even to use the 27th and 30th in a projected offensive to recover Mount Kemmel, but instead, the Boche decamped on his own account. After a local attack made to encourage the retirement, the two American divisions were sent down the line for the next great bout on the British front—the assault on the Hindenburg Line. What happened there is well known. Two weeks later the 27th was sent in for the third and last time, with the job of forcing the Hermann Stellung along the Selle river, where the retreating Boche had attempted

to make a stand. The 27th had lost 4,600 officers and men on the Hindenburg Line and had received no replacements; its rifle strength was reduced from 12,000 to 2,377, but it made good its attack. The enemy was driven across the river and forced gradually back on a new retirement.

The story of the division's work in action is told in great detail, as regards units and persons. The attack on the Hindenburg Line, for instance, is related by following the progress of each battalion in turn, with full discussion of the situation in each particular sector, and with appreciative mention of individual feats of arms and of casualties suffered. The narrative would have been clearer had there been added a general outline of the action as a whole, or a concise summing up of the result on each day. As it is, the reader has some difficulty in grasping clearly just what happened in the end. Unfortunately, the maps do not help him much in this respect; they do not, for instance, indicate the line or the points reached in the attacks of September 27th or 29th.

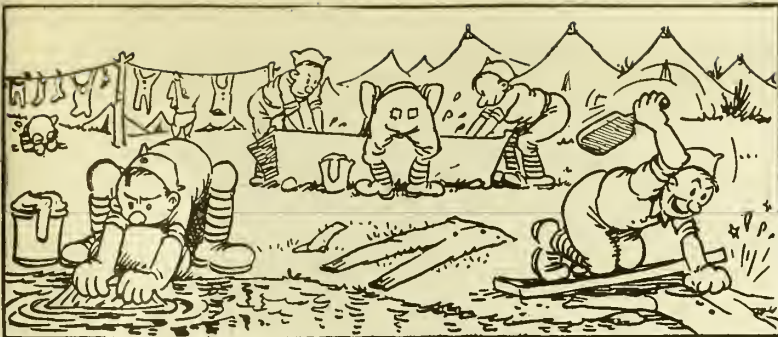
On the other hand, General O'Ryan's explanation of the plan adopted for the attack by the British IVth Army and the Australian corps is very clear; and his account of the preliminary conferences with the Australian staff is particularly interesting. It throws much light on the whole operation, and probably no one else is in a position to set it forth so well. No less interesting is the author's final comment on the various criticisms which have been made of the plan for the attack and his concluding opinion that the decisions adopted by General Rawlinson and the Australian corps "were fully justified by the results of the battle." Throughout, General O'Ryan has nothing but praise for the British and Australian commands under which his division served, and on this difficult ground of inter-Allied military relations the whole spirit of the book is particularly fine.

The second volume contains the official matter and other appendices. A large number of orders are given in full, and there are the usual tables: decorations, a full list of divisional citations (134 pages), names of dead and missing, and unusually well-analyzed tables of casualties. It is rather surprising that no regimental, brigade or divisional operations reports are included; the attack on the Hindenburg Line was an operation which deserved having its official record shown in this way, and the absence of it is a decided gap. (The excellent history of the 107th Infantry, by Gerald F. Jacobson, gave the regiment's operations report and a special G. H. Q. report on the Hindenburg Line affair, which makes the thing rather clearer than anything to be found in General O'Ryan's book.) There is, however, one feature of unusual interest—a war diary, reporting in detail the movements and proceedings of every unit down to battalions.

We must note one other surprising omission. In the two chapters devoted to the attack on the Hindenburg Line there is not even a passing allusion to the brilliant triumph of the 30th Division on September 29th. We do not mean to imply any invidious comparison, and the 27th had no doubt the more difficult task of the two, but it was the complete success of the 30th and the 46th British Division next to it in breaking through the main position that made the whole attack a success. The 27th Division's history should have had a word of appreciation of its next-door neighbor.

T. H. THOMAS.

* THE STORY OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH DIVISION. By Major General John F. O'Ryan. Two volumes. Published by Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Company, 80 Lafayette st., New York City.



When We Were Our Own Washing Machine

There was at least one thing in the service that a doughgob could do without violating the articles of war, the general orders, and so on.

That one thing was washing. A bird could choose his own method of attack. He could deploy any evening with o.d. and soap and dust 'em off on the stones around some brook; he could assemble his forces, brush, bucket, and cuss words, and go into action at the bathhouse; or he could await the coming of wash day, Saturday afternoon, and with the combined forces of all hands, and hot water, sail into the garments.

A man could rub by counts, 1-2-3-4, he could unravel and wrinkle, waste and destroy, tear asunder, rip buttons, or anything else, and nobody in authority was standing around waiting to order him to report forthwith to the skipper.

There was only one order, "go wash, young man, go wash." Once at the task, a bird was as free as the galloping seam squirrels that wandered at will over the clothing.

The gobs had to wash other things than clothes, but they had the ocean with 'em and a doughboy sometimes had to wait for rain—but not long, in France.

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Resolution passed unanimously at the Second National Convention of The American Legion.

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Is this offer too good to be true?

Is it possible that we are offering a value too great to be credible?
Do people shy at the thought of getting too much for their money?

WE recently mailed several thousand circulars to book-lovers. We described and pictured these thirty volumes of the Little Leather Library honestly, sincerely, accurately. But we received relatively few orders.

Then we mailed several more thousand circulars to booklovers, *this time enclosing a sample cover* of one of the volumes illustrated above. Orders came in by the hundred! The reason, we believe, is that most people cannot believe we can really offer so great a value unless they *see a sample!*

In this advertisement, naturally, it is impossible for us to show you a sample volume. The best we can do is to describe and picture the books in the limited space on this page. We depend on your faith in the statements made by the advertisements appearing in *The American Legion Weekly*; and we are hoping you will believe what we say, instead of thinking this offer is "too good to be true."

What this offer is

Here then is our offer. The illustration above shows thirty of the world's greatest masterpieces of literature. These include the finest works of such immortal authors as Shakespeare, Kipling, Stevenson, Emerson, Poe, Coleridge, Burns, Omar Khayyam, Macaulay, Lincoln, Washington, Oscar Wilde, Gilbert, Longfellow, Drummond, Conan Doyle, Edward Everett Hale, Thoreau, Tennyson, Browning, and others. These are books which no one cares to confess he has not read and

re-read; books which bear reading a score of times.

Each of these volumes is complete—this is not that abomination, a collection of extracts; the paper is a high-grade white wove antique, equal to that used in books selling at \$1.50 to \$2.00; the type is clear and easy to read; the binding is a beautiful limp material, tinted in antique copper and green, and so handsomely embossed as to give it the appearance of hand tooled leather.

And, though each of these volumes is complete (the entire set contains over 3,000 pages), a volume can be carried conveniently wherever you go, in your pocket or purse; several can be placed in your handbag or grip; or the entire thirty can be placed on your library table "without cluttering it up" as one purchaser expressed it.

What about the price?

Producing such fine books is, in itself, no great achievement. But the aim of this enterprise has been to produce them at a price that anyone in the whole land could afford; the only way we could do this was to manufacture them in quantities of nearly a million at a time—to bring the price down through "quantity production." And we relied for our sales on our faith that Americans would rather read classics than trash. What happened? OVER TEN MILLION of these volumes have already

been purchased by people in every walk of life.

Yet we know, from our daily mail, that many thousands of people still cannot believe we can sell 30 such volumes for \$2.98 (plus postage). We do not know how to combat this skepticism. All we can say is: send for these 30 volumes; if you are not satisfied, return them at any time within a month and you will not be out one penny. Of the thousands of American Legion readers who purchased this set when we advertised it in previous issues *not one* in a hundred expressed dissatisfaction for any reason whatever.

Send No Money

No description, no illustration, can do these 30 volumes justice. You must see them. We should like to send every reader a sample, but frankly our profit is so small we cannot afford it. We offer, instead, to send the entire set on trial. Simply mail the coupon or a letter; when the set arrives, pay the postman \$2.98 plus postage; then examine the books. As stated above, your money will be returned at any time within 30 days for any reason, or for NO reason, if you request it. Mail the coupon or a letter NOW while this page is before you, or you may forget.

Little Leather Library Corp'n
Dept. 504, 354 Fourth Avenue, New York

Little Leather Library Corp'n, Dept. 504
354 Fourth Avenue, New York

Please send me the set of 30 volumes of the De Luxe edition of the Little Leather Library. It is understood that the price of these 30 volumes is ONLY \$2.98 plus postage, which I will pay the postman when the set arrives. But if I am not satisfied after examining them, I will mail the books back at your expense within 30 days, and you are to refund my money at once. It is understood there is no further payment or obligation of any kind.

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....

Many people who have been asked to guess the value of these books have estimated, before we told them the price, that they are worth from \$50 to \$100 for the complete set. These records are on file for inspection of any one interested.